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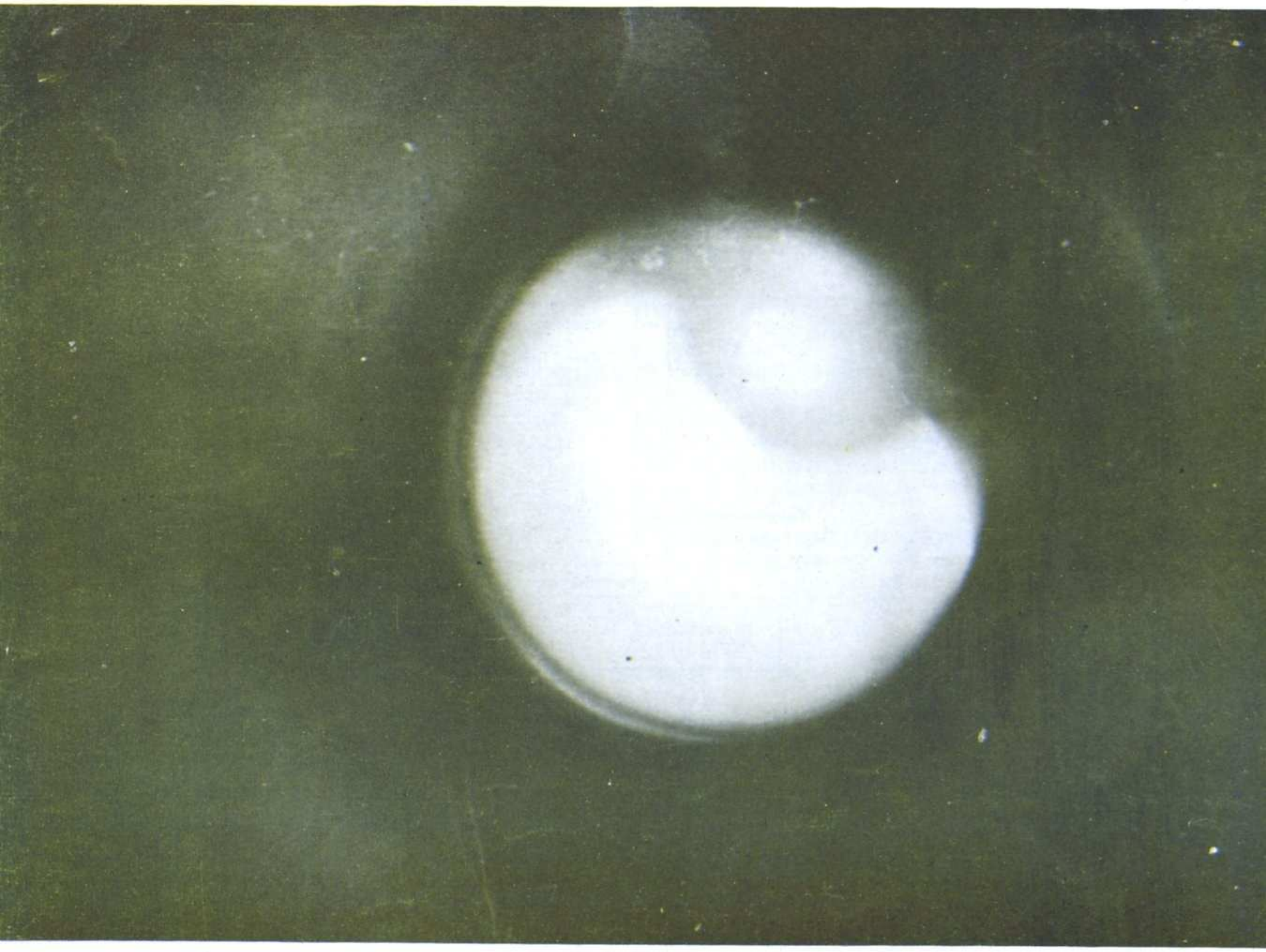

LANDING AT UZÈS, FRANCE

Photograph of the object taken by the witness alongside his house

See page 3

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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RE-STATEMENT

IN a recent letter, a young man who implies that he is a student of astonomy, and states that he has just read our book *The Humanoids,* takes us to task for appaarently being unaware that "... if two planets are chosen at random within an area of, say, 12 light years' radius, the chance of the dominant creature on one bearing the slightest resemblance to [*the dominant creature on*] the other is almost zero, and is at least very, very minimal."

He then goes on to say: "If six planets are chosen (all life-bearing), then the chance of all six within the 12 light year radius having similar dominant species is zero."

Our critic states that his reasoning is based on the fact that, in the evolutionary processes of our planet, amino acids were formed which combined with formaldehyde (a 'sugar' brought in by the countless meteorites which bombarded "planets in the early solar system" [*sic*]) to form proteins, and that the molecules of protein lumped together to form the first primitive cells. Continual changes in the elements of the planets caused these cells to change to suit the environment. The millions of changes required to reproduce an intelligent creature would, it is implied, vary from planet to planet, so the creatures produced would all differ from one another.

The radius of 12 light years was chosen by our correspondent because, he says, it is at that distance that our star [*the Sun*] becomes "invisible to the naked eye," hence any deviations in its path produced by orbiting planets like the massive Jupiter would not be visible. The detection of the planets of Barnard's star – which is at 5.6 light years distance from our system – was quoted as an example of such deviations being visible from Earth, although we suspect that astronomers use powerful visual aids in such an exercise. [*All of which prompts us to ask the question: "Whose – or what creature's – naked eye? It is possible that a differently-evolved creature may be able to see a star of the magnitude of our Sun from much farther away that 12 light years – it would seem our critic has used a loose assumption here.*]

After the build-up, our critic proceeds to his point when he refers to the "... hundreds of humanoids" which "pop up" in forms varying from human-like types to squeaky 30 cm. creatures, different in detail but basically resembling our planet's dominant species, capable of breathing our atmosphere and instantly accustomed to our terrestrial gravity. He concludes that "... almost all humanoid reports are utter rubbish, as any respectable astronomer would agree."

It so happens that we know several respectable astronomers who would not agree with such a bald statement. One of them, Dr. Jacques Vallée collaborated in *The Humanoids.* Then there is Dr. J. Allen Hynek who, until his recent retirement was Professor of Astonomy at Northwestern University, Director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center, and for twenty years Civilian Scientific Consultant on UFO reports to the United States Air Force. Again there are Dr. Pierre Guérin, astro-

physicist and Maître de Recherche at the CNRS, Paris, and C.Maxwell Cade, FSR's valued consultant.

Should readers wonder why we bother ourselves with a letter bearing a somewhat trivial and ill-considered argument, we should explain that it presents a chance to re-state our position in these matters. As for the author of the letter, who says he is a student who expects to pursue his studies at university – which is why we are withholding his name – we hope to persuade him to prise open his mind before it is too late. It seems he completely missed the point of the book, which was a first attempt to gather together world-wide reports of allegedly humanoid occupants of UFOs, either landed, or in close proximity to the observers. It was never the purpose of the book to prove that these reported creatures were "spacemen" from distant star systems, visiting and surveying this planet of ours. Rather it was to record the diversity of ways in which people from widely separated and far-flung places claim to have encountered these things, to search for patterns of behaviour inherent in the reports, to learn something about the behaviour and background of the witnesses, to encourage preliminary studies and further collating of information and documentation, and to enable ourselves to speculate a little.

We too have read our fill of popular science digests, and so are aware of the possibility that threads of life have taken vastly different courses in different places in the universe. This, however, has not caused us to negate in our minds the witnesses' descriptions of their encounters or observations but, instead, has caused us to wonder. To wonder, for instance, why people have persisted in making such reports over the years, reports which the diehards, or the inexperienced, tell us are baseless or are rubbish.

It seems certain that most of the witnesses have seen something very perplexing; that it could have been what they say it was is another matter.

It is possible that they may have seen something of extraterrestrial origin. It is also possible that they may have experienced a manifestation of something from another time-space continuum, with object and forms "seeping" through one of the so-called "window areas" where an interpenetrating (or parallel) universe impinges on ours. On the other hand they may have witnessed manifestations of elemental beings appearing in a modern frame of reference – and so deceiving the observers – as "space beings" from afar; encounters with "Old Nick" and his minions rather than with assorted extraterrestrial Captains Kirk.

After studying the countless reports that have passed through our hands it is possible to speculate that whatever it is that appears before the witnesses' eyes or senses, it is capable of exerting varying degrees of control over them. Perhaps it *is* a spaceship – to satisfy our critical student, just *one* from that huge, near-empty volume of "cubic light years" around our solar system – the controllers of which are capable of beaming whatever images they choose into the minds of the percipients; images of humanoid activity, images of abduction, images of "messages." (If, however, our witnesses over the decades have been watching signs of surveillance and exploration by extraterrestrials, then it seems to have been an extraordinarily untidy and inefficiently-conducted operation.) On the other hand the observers may have seen haphazard manifestations of beings in various degrees similar to our own species who emerge by chance, perhaps momentarily, from their parallel or interpenetrating world, Again, our witnesses may have been subjected to the gruesomely playful antics of materialising elementals or demonic beings, in which case perhaps they should turn for succour to our men of religion.

Wherever the region these persistent visitors come from, be it extraterrestrial, interterrestrial or meta-terrestrial, we feel we should be very guarded in our reaction to their admonitions and pleadings. We have an uneasy feeling that they are not concerned with the welfare of mankind.

Pointers to these ideas are to be found in *The Humanoids* (first published in 1966), and they have been developed since then in *Flying Saucer Review* and in the more recent book *Encounters Cases from Flying Saucer Review.*

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REPORT ON A LANDING AT UZÈS

Charles Gouiran, et al

M. Charles Gouiran is President of the "Veronica" UFO Investigation Group, Nîmes, and the investigation was conducted in collaboration of Mlle. Beaujouan, and Messrs Danan, Lemonnier, Mathieu, and Perier, all members of the group. Translation from French by Gordon Creighton.

THE ancient ducal city of Uzès, in the Department of Gard in the extreme South of France, lies some 25 kilometres or so to the north of Nîmes, on gently rolling moorland. At the end of a long steep track outside the town, where other human habitations are few, lies the villa of the Fernandez family.

At about 6.00 p.m. on November 19, 1974, Christophe Fernandez, aged 16, was about to set off for the town to see his friends. He was alone in the house at this time, so would make sure of locking up all doors and windows before leaving. And, as he was closing the shutters to the kitchen windows, which face westwards, he noticed a luminous ball partly hidden behind the top of the surrounding garden wall of the villa. His next visit was to the bathroom, the window of which faces north.

Arriving in the bathroom, he beheld (at a distance which he subsequently determined as about 35 meters) a brightly shining ball of a colour difficult to define except perhaps as opalescent. It did not appear to be metallic and, despite its great brightness it did not illuminate the area round about it. It was stationary beside the road. Its diameter he estimated at somewhere between a minimum of 1 metre 80 cms. and 2 metres 50 cms., and it now seems that it can be set at 2 metres 20 cms. The ball was either touching the ground or very close to it. Despite the pretty strong *mistral* (cold wind from the N.E.) which was blowing at the time, the globe or ball was absolutely motionless.

This astonishing sight alarmed the boy, as may be imagined and, to bolster his courage rather than with any actual plans of aggression, he went and got his gun. The mere thought of having a weapon was reassuring.

Returning to the window, he watched the phenomenon attentively for the next ten or fifteen minutes.

Then he remembered that his camera was loaded. So he got it, and went out and approached the UFO until he was 23 metres from it (he established this distance afterwards). Arriving there, he could just detect a modulated but continuous sound which it is difficult to describe, but which he likens to the *glou-glou* of a bottle being emptied. At certain places on the luminous globe he could see circular patches – there seemed to be three of them – "... where the colouring was deeper and more uniform than the rest." These circular patches, or "circular shapes," as he described them, were slowly moving about "..as though looking for something," and they put him somewhat in mind of the bubbles of soft paste that are to be seen rising and falling in certain illuminated gadgets.

> The "Veronica" Investigation Group, of 3 rue Folco de Baroncelli, 30000 Nîmes, France, inform us that they are a local association of some fifty members who work in close collaboration with our friends of *Lumières Dans La Nuit*. They aim to make in-depth studies of selected cases arising within their region of France, and when sending us this interesting and well prepared report they were so kind as to inform us that, so far as publication in the English language is concerned, this as well as future material, is made available exclusively to FSR, for which collaboration our warmest thanks! EDITOR

But by now Christophe was trembling so much that he found it totally impossible to operate his camera.

He went back into the house, pulled himself together, and got his tripod and lightmeter. Then he went outside again and took two series of photos: three at 35 metres and 2 (of which one was no good) at 23 metres.

After that he went back to the house, put a record on his record-player to cheer himself up, and carried on watching the UFO.

A few minutes after that, the globe rose slowly to a height of four or five metres in the air and then stopped again, and a cylinder emerged from the under part. Blinded by the tremendous brightness of this cylinder, he had to put up his hands to protect his eyes. The cylinder seemed to him to be about 80 cms – 1 metre in length, with a diameter that he thought about 40 cms.

Then the UFO suddenly shot straight upwards, with the speed of lightning, and was out of sight in a tiny fraction of a second.

After so extraordinary an experience, Christophe nevertheless decided that he would still go to Uzès as he had planned. It was now about 6.30 p.m. as and his observation had thus lasted half an hour.

He mounted his moped, and as he passed the spot where the thing had been he got a strong sensation of heat.

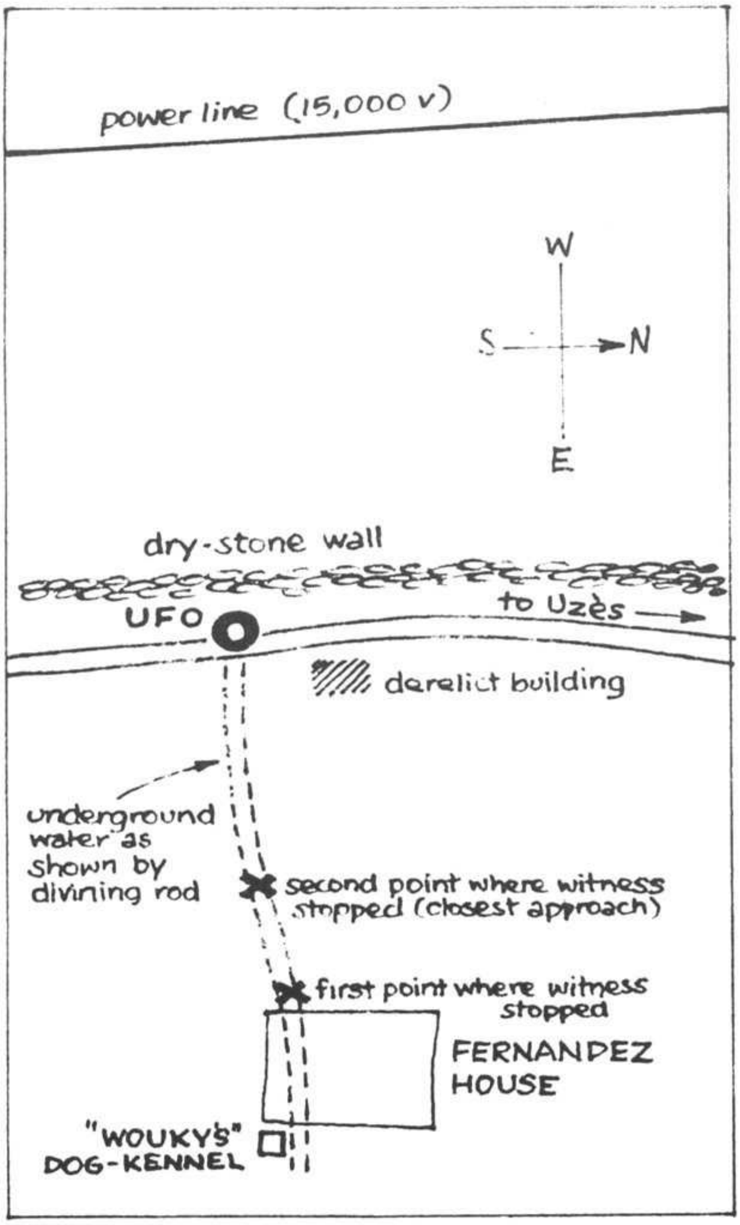
He does not mention having smelt anything at any time.

During the next few days he used up the rest of his film by taking some pictures of his younger brother, and then he developed it in the laboratory of the Uzès Youth Centre, in the presence of two secondary-school teachers.

We of the "Veronica" Group only learned of the landing through the account in the newspaper *Le Midi Libre* of December 20, 1974, and arrangements were at once made for us to interview the witness on December 26.

Our investigators were able to examine the negatives, which are very interesting indeed, for it was possible to observe, from one picture to another, how the circular marks had indeed moved. The film had not been cut up, so that all the pictures of the UFO and of Christophe's brother were clearly shown on the roll.

We tried to have the film sent to Monsieur Claude Poher for examination and immediate return to the owner, but quite in vain. Subsequently, the film was unwisely left at the Youth Centre in Uzès, despite our warnings, and it was stolen.



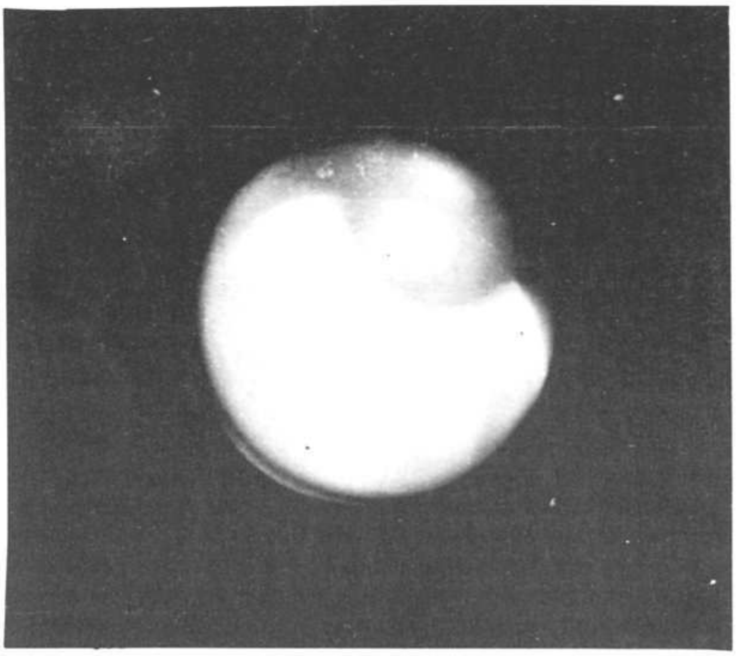


Photo 1: After the theft of the negatives, Groupe Veronique made this print by re-photographing the best of the proofs which were in the posession of the witness.

Details of Camera used by Christophe Fernandez, Film, etc:

Camera: AGFA Vitoret, Lens = 2.8/50
Speed: 1/60 Sec.
Aperture: Not noted, but set according to indications given by photometer.
Distance: (as shown by camera.): 15 metres.
Actual Distance, UFO to camera : 23 metres.
Film: KODAK PAN "X" (125 ASA)

We have therefore had photographs made of the best of the prints.

The Fernandez family are people held in very high esteem in the region. Monsieur Fernandez is a technical teacher at the Uzès Lycée, where Christophe himself is a student in the 2nd class. (The father being an atheist, Christophe has no mystical tendencies.)

Christophe appears to be thoroughly well balanced, calm and level-headed. He is tall, very well developed for his age, and a successful practitioner in two particularly virile sports: Motorcycle rallies and karate.

Results of Investigation of December 26, 1974:

At the spot indicated as the place where the UFO had been, we were unable to detect anything unusual.

Radioactivity: The Geiger counter registered no residual radioactivity, however slight.

Magnetic anomalies: None found.

Effects on power supply: The witness observed no drop or interruption of power.

Effects on witness's watch: and on clocks in the house: No disturbance of function noticed.

Geological faults: The dowsing rod reacts very

Photo 2: The landing zone. The poor quality may be due to use of infrared film.

strongly along the line linking the site to the house. There must consequently be a big underground flow of water there. Monsieur Fernandez confirms in fact that he has a well which lies right on this line and which yields a steady flow of five cubic metres of water per hour.

Examination of Vegetation: When examined more than a month after the event, the vegetation at the site seemed unaffected.

Attempts at planting: Given the appearance of the existing vegetation it seemed unnecessary to carry out any tests of germination.

Soil Analysis: A thin layer of soil covers the calcareous slabs of this typical moorland terrain. Examination of the soil at the landing site showed, at a depth of a few centimetres, a few spots which suggested that they might bear signs of having undergone a condiderable rise in temperature. Samples were taken, but the analysis revealed nothing of note.

Photographs: black and white film: No results owing to a mistake, the film having failed to engage properly.

Colour film: We took some good colour films of the spot and surroundings (Kodachrome II), and these accompany our report.

Infra-red film: As is well known, infra-red films do not last long, and must be used very soon after being purchased. Our Group had an infra-red film: we took some photos with it, primarily in order not to let the film be wasted, but there was no hope of our getting anything on it anyway since over a month had elapsed since the landing.

Effect on animals:

a) *Dog: the Alsatian dog "Wouky" was tied up* behind thé house at the time. He did not react in any particular way, did not bark, and was not disturbed either that evening or on the following days. This might suggest that there were no ultrasonic or infrasonic emissions. "Wouky" does not however react to light, as he is blind.

b) *Birds:* The birds frequenting the area do not seem to have been affected. Their numbers remain appreciably the same.

c)*Rabbits:* On the other hand the rabbits, which

Photo 3: Suspected landing trace: infrared film.

usually were in the habit of gambolling about at the site and in the vicinity soon after night had fallen, had not been seen again up to the time of our investigation, namely more than a month after the event.

High Tension Power Lines: A line (15,000 volts) passes in the vicinity of the landing site.

Photo 4: Christophe Fernandez at the landing site. The "1 metre" pointer denotes height of object above ground

Follow-Up

We kept the witness under observation for several months afterwards. At no time did he ever show the least sign of any physiological disorder.

Meanwhile, while it is not possible to establish any link with Christophe's case, it should be noted that, on numerous occasions over the month following his experience, as the evening was coming on, luminous flashes, at times assuming the form of "electrical" bluish-green circles, appeared inside the villa, at floor-level, *and at the very spot where Christophe had stood.* The duration of these flashes has never been more than a fraction of a second. His father has made a systematic study of the phenomenon. No connection has been established between these flashes and anything to do with Christophe's clothing, for example, nor has any relation been established between them and the furniture in the room.

During this follow-up period, we made a systematic enquiry in the district with a view to finding corroboration of Christophe Fernandez' experience, and two new pieces of evidence were found.

The first of these pieces of evidence concerns a person residing on the northern outskirts of Nîmes

Photo 5: Christophe at 35 metres from the site, in the position where he took his first series of photographs of the object

Photo 6: Christophe at 23 metres from the landing site where he shot his second series of photographs

Photo 7: The Fernandez home, as seen from the landing site. The bathroom window can be seen, while the kitchen is to the right. As will be observed, even when leaning out of the kitchen window Christophe could not see the whole of the UFO, due to the angle of the house. That is why he had to move to the bathroom window for better viewing.

who, in the early afternoon of November 19, 1974, "saw a spherical UFO travelling towards Uzès."

The second report comes from Madame Clutien, whose home is situated some 150 metres from the site of Christophe's luminous ball. On the evening in question, Mme Clutien, her two little girls, and a nephew, all saw the UFO towards the west, between 5.00 and 6.00 p.m. Owing to the lie of the terrain they did not manage to observe its actual landing, after its slow descent. The site of the landing is in fact invisible from their house.

Comments on the Witness by Charles Gouiran

The witness displayed a great deal of *sang-froid* in his cool handling of the situation, and showed himself to be a remarkably good observer. His sincerity is beyond all question. In fact fear of being accused of exaggeration induced him to keep silent on certain points - particularly as regards to the way in which the UFO departed -- when talking to the journalist from *Le Midi Libre*.

It is right to point out that it was a member of Christophe's own family who informed the press, otherwise the whole thing might very well have remained unknown. And that would indeed have been regrettable, for here we have a close encounter sighting, with photographs, something that is exceedingly rare in the annals of Ufology.

Being at ease with us, he told us how puzzled he had been by one extraordinary feature of the globe: **at some moments it seemed to be transparent.** He said: "I thought I could see the dry-stone wall through the body of the globe... it didn't seem possible... and I just don't understand a thing about it."

It is difficult to accept that a complex machine capable of reaching very high speeds could have a structure that at times could be transparent. Translucence and transparency are features that, unconsiously, the human brain associates with a certain degree of fragility that would be quite incompatible with high speeds.

However, this unusual feature has put us in mind again of the case of Onilson Patero in Brazil*, who "could see the blades of the fan turning through the hood of his car."

Comparing the two cases of Onilson Patero and Christophe Fernandez. we note in fact:

(1) a certain similarity in shape: in both cases the UFO was a ball, with a tube below.
(2) one of the properties of Onilson Patero's ball at Catanduva was that by means of a beam it could make things transparent.
(3) one of the features of the ball at Uzès was that at times, it became transparent.

It may perhaps seem hazardous to put foward the following hypothesis: namely that the ball at Uzès was equipped with a device that generated "translucidizing" beams, the same as the ball at Catanduva, but that it did not have to employ it within the framework of its "mission" at Uzès. This generator however being kept ready charged in the machine may have momentarily released pulsations that made it possible to see through the UFO?

This does not strike us as an impossible idea, and it seemed worth mentioning.

***Note by G. Creighton**: For the case of the UFO at Catanduva, Brazil, which turned Onilson Patero's car "transparent," see my article on page 14 of FSR Vol. 21, double issue 3/4 (1975). As I stated therein, I had not yet had time to give more than a very brief résumé of this case which Dr. W. Buhler has dealt with at very great length.

The account used by Monsieur Charles Gouiran was different from mine in details, and longer, and was taken from the report published in *Phénomènes Spatiaux* for September 1973.

CARLOS DE LOS SANTOS AND THE MEN IN BLACK

Jerome Clark

> JEROME CLARK is Associate Editor of *Fate* Magazine. He has also co-authored, with Loren Coleman, two excellent books *The Unidentified*, and currently, *Creatures of the Outer Edge.* *
>
> I remember Jerry with affection as the first American ufologist to write to me to offer a contribution to *Flying Saucer Review* when I became Editor in October 1964. It was an article entitled "A Contact Claim" and it appeared in FSR Vol. II No. I (January-February 1965). Many other valuable contributions followed over the years, and this present item is doubly welcome seeing that it has ended an hiatus brought about by pressure of work in his editional post.
>
> CHARLES BOWEN

I MET Carlos Antonio de los Santos Montiel in Acapulco, Mexico, in April 1977 at the First International Conference on the UFO Phenomenon. He was there at the invitation of Mexican ufologist and television personality Pedro Ferriz, to whom he had first confided his story about the mysterious strangers who had threatened him.

I had already heard of his UFO encounter of May 3, 1975, over Mexico City – surely one of the best-documented sightings in the history of that country. I had also heard vague rumours of subsequent Men in Black episodes but I knew no details. Thus I was gratified when Mimi Hynek (an excellent ufologist in her own right whose reputation has consistently—and unfairly—been overshadowed by that of her famous husband) arranged a meeting between De los Santos and me. My friend Richard Heiden, who also participated in the interview, supplied the translations when Carlos' imperfect English vocabulary failed him.

Because the MIB story rests only on the word of one claimant, it is not nearly so persuasive as the incident which preceded it. That of course, does not necessarily mean it is not true. Pedro Ferriz is sure that *something* frightened the young man very badly.

For my part, I can testify that De los Santos told his story simply and straightforwardly and seemed quite puzzled by the events he was describing. He had no answers, only questions for Heiden and me. He engaged in speculation only once, when we pressed him to tell us who he thought the strangers might have been. With some hesitation he said he thought they could be secret agents from the CIA or KGB, then added that Ferriz had suggested they might be "extraterrestrials." He concluded by saying he really had no idea who they were. He said he had hoped *we* could tell him.

Is his MIB story true? I don't know. My subjective impression—and that of others who know him either well or casually—is that he is sincere. But I could be wrong. In recounting it here I am not endorsing it, only putting it down for the record.

* * * * *

The affair began on May 3, 1975, when Carlos was flying to Mexico City in his Piper PA-24 and his plane started to shake for no apparent reason. When he looked to his right he was astonished to see a dark grey disc-shaped object, about 10 or 12 feet in diameter, just beyond the wing tip. On his left he spotted a similar object pacing his aircraft. But neither of these was nearly so unsettling as the sight of the third, which was coming at him head-on.

De los Santos yanked a lever which should have lowered the landing gear—he had hoped to touch the UFO with his wheels—but the mechanism failed to respond. But he still succeeded in touching the object; in fact, much to the pilot's chagrin, the UFO scraped the underpart of the fuselage and caused the plane to jolt.

By now, and beside himself with fear, De los Santos discovered that the controls would not operate. Theoretically at least the craft was out of control but it continued flying relatively smoothly at 120 m.p.h. That didn't make him feel any better—he was weeping as he described the encounter over the radio to the control tower at the Mexico City airport.

The UFOs no longer visible, the pilot asked for and received permission to land and was relieved to find the plane's instrumentation working normally again.

The people at the control tower took his report very seriously indeed. They had tracked the objects on radar as De los Santos was describing them. Air traffic controller Emilio Estanol told reporters, "The objects made a 270-degree turn at 518 m.p.h. in an arc of only three miles. Normally a plane moving at that speed needs eight to 10 miles to make a turn like that. In my 17 years as an air traffic controller I've never seen anything like that."

Carlos de los Santos was given a medical examination and pronounced fit, free of physical or psychological damage from the experience. However, he had no idea that events were about to

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* Both paperbacks published by Warner Books, P.O. Box 690, New York, NY 10019, U.S.A. *Creatures of the Outer Edge* is priced at $1.95.

take an even more bizarre turn, or so he would claim subsequently.

His sighting received considerable attention in the Mexican press, which for days afterwards specualted about the meaning of it all. The witness, a rather retiring 23-year-old whose ambition in life was to become an airline pilot, found all the publicity rather embarassing, but Ferriz managed to persuade him to appear on his television programme some two weeks later.

As he drove down the freeway on his way to the interview, De los Santos claims he noticed a large black *Galaxie* limousine— it reminded him of a diplomatic car—pull in front of him. Through the rear-view mirror he could see an identical car just behind him. Both vehicles looked brand new, almost as if they were being driven for the first time.

The cars started to crowd him and soon Carlos' car had been forced over to the side of the road. Alarmed, he stopped his vehicle and was about to get out when the *Galaxies* also pulled over and four tall, broad shouldered men jumped out.

One of them placed his hands on the door as if to ensure that De los Santos couldn't get out. He spoke quickly in Spanish in a strange "mechanical" tone. "Look, boy," he said, "if you value your life and your family's too, don't talk any more about this sighting of yours."

De los Santos was too stunned to reply. The men, who were "Scandinavian" in appearance with unusually pale skin, and dressed in black suits, returned to their cars and disappeared in traffic. Frightened and anxious, Carlos turned his car around and went back home.

Two days later he told Ferriz what had happened. Ferriz told him he had heard similar stories in the past from UFO witnesses and assured him that he would be all right. Ferriz was sufficiently persuasive that the two arranged another interview, which went off without incident.

A month after the incident with the strangers in black, De los Santos met with Dr. J. Allen Hynek while the latter was travelling through Mexico. After the initial interview Hynek invited Carlos to meet him at breakfast the next morning to continue their discussion of the sighting.

De los Santos left his house the next morning at six o'clock and drove over to the Mexicana Airlines office, where he had applied for a job as a pilot. From there he went to Hynek's hotel.

On his way up the steps he was unpleasantly surprized to encounter one of the strange men who had threatened him. "You were already warned once," the stranger said. "You are not to talk about your experience."

"All I did was accept an invitation," De los Santos protested. "Dr. Hynek wants to know what I saw and I thought that maybe I could understand it better myself if I talked with him."

The stranger shoved him back several feet. "Look, I don't want you to make problems for yourself," he said. "And why did you leave your house at six this morning? Do you work for Mexicana Airlines? Get out of here—and don't come back!"

De los Santos did as he was told.

That proved to be his last encounter with the sinister strangers. Two years later, when he talked with Heiden and me, he recalled,"They were very strange. They were huge, taller than Mexicans are, and they were so *white*

"But the strangest thing of all is that all the while they were in my presence *I never saw them blink.*

* * * * *

In many ways this is an archetypal MIB tale. There is little that we have not heard before, from the pale-faced men in black speaking in a "mechanical" tone to the seemingly "brand new" *Galaxie* automobiles. There are also, of course, the ultimately empty threats. The percipient is warned not to talk but keeps his silence only temporarily, and when he resumes public discussion, nothing further happens to him.

Carlos insists that he had never heard of the MIB until he encountered them face to face. That may well be true. On the other hand the old argument that certain phenomena are known "only to ufologists" has no meaning any more, since books, articles, television shows and movies about UFOs and related manifestations have spread UFO information (and misinformation) to hundreds of millions of people worldwide. There are few if any secrets that remain the sole property of the ufological community.

Still, it is significant enough that stories like Carlos de los Santos' persist. Whether they are hoaxes, psychological experiences or genuine encounters with the Phenomenon's goon squad, they deserve our careful consideration.

Fortean Times

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ARE THERE UFOs THAT MIMIC?
Part 2

Ann Druffel

Our contributor, who lives in California and whose reports are always welcome in *Flying Saucer Review,* is organiser of Skynet and researches and writes for MUFON in addition to being a member of the Center for UFO studies.

TO those readers who might feel that this writers's preoccupation with the Glendale helicopter case of February 1, 1977, is like beating a dead horse, I offer apologies to both the readers *and* the dead horse. In UFO research, however, the essence of which is comprised of weird events, there occasionally occurs a super-weird incident that simply cannot be filed away. These occasional events worry researchers. They invite more study, and still more study, and any correlation which can possibly be made must be regarded as a clue for eventual solution.[1]

We gratefully leave behind the "mimicking" speculation on this case and proceed to what is perhaps the most interesting aspect surrounding the report. I refer to the fact that the cylindrical-shaped object which manoeuvred in a precise orbiting pattern with a helicopter while being viewed from a distance of 300-500 feet by two professional and highly sceptical observers over Glendale, California, was distinctly similar to a well-known Brazilian UFO, which was involved in one of the strangest abduction stories ever recorded.[2]

On the afternoon of May 4, 1969 (Sunday), José Antônio da Silva was fishing alone on the banks of a small lagoon at Bebedouro, in the muniple district of Matozinhos, Brazil. José Antônio was an enlisted soldier and orderly to the Commandant of a Guards Battalion of the Military Police Force in Minas Gerais. About 3.00 p.m. on the above date, he became aware of figures moving behind him, and without warning was overcome by cramps and numbness in his legs. He was seized by two short entities dressed in shining "suits" and dull-grey helmet-like masks. The entities were soon joined by a third and José Antônio was carried some distance to a "machine", which was standing on a small dirt road.

The machine "consisted of a vertical cylinder joined at the bases by two lenticircular or flattened pieces, both of them having a diameter greater than that of the cylinder. From the edges of the upper platform, at regular intervals, ran rods which were set obliquely into the base of the cylinder. In the cylinder was an opening resembling a door, some 1.30 x 0.60 metres in size. The external height of the machine was about two metres, the upper platform being about three metres in diameter and the lower platform, which rested on the ground, being some 2.5 metres in diameter. The cylinder was of a grey colour, and the two platforms were black."

To make a fascinating story very short, José Antônio was taken aboard the machine, the inside of which was quadrangular, each side being about 2 metres long and the height about the same.

This exact description is quoted from the FSR Bebedouro article to point up the similarities with the Glendale object. The colour and reported height and width were similar.[3] Especially the obliquely slanted appendages, which were termed "rods" in the Bebedouro article and "struts" by the Glendale witnesses are so much the same in angle of slant, width and length in proportion to the cylinder as to be truly fascinating. The best way to view these similarities is to compare the two sketches accompanying this article. Sketch A is an artist's impression based on the description given him by José Antônio. Sketch B is a composite of the two sketches made by the Glendale helicopter witnesses. It needs to be explained here that in the February 1977 Mufon UFO Journal article, the second witness' sketch was printed upside down by mistake! In Sketch B accompanying this present article, the *entire* composite sketch is printed upside down, for, it is in this way that the correlation with the Bebedouro object is most marked. Even the faint markings seen by one of the Glendale witnesses corresponds with the height and position of the door described by José Antônio.

But is it fair, you might ask, to print a UFO sketch upside down to show correlation with another object? In this case it is more than fair for the following reason.

Continuing the Bebedouro story, the object with its three short entities and its unwilling passenger lifted off the ground and travelled for what seemed to José Antônio an "interminable" time. At about mid-point during the journey, "the machine seemed to rotate on its lateral axis. To illustrate this manoeuvre José Antônio took a tumbler, to represent the central cylinder of the machine, and laid it on its side. The seats adjusted themselves to this new position of the machine,'and swung over themselves'. Then, after another lengthy period, the machine and the seats reverted to the normal positions." So when we print our composite sketch of the Glendale object upside down, we are doing nothing different that the Bebedouro object was apparently able to do so.[4]

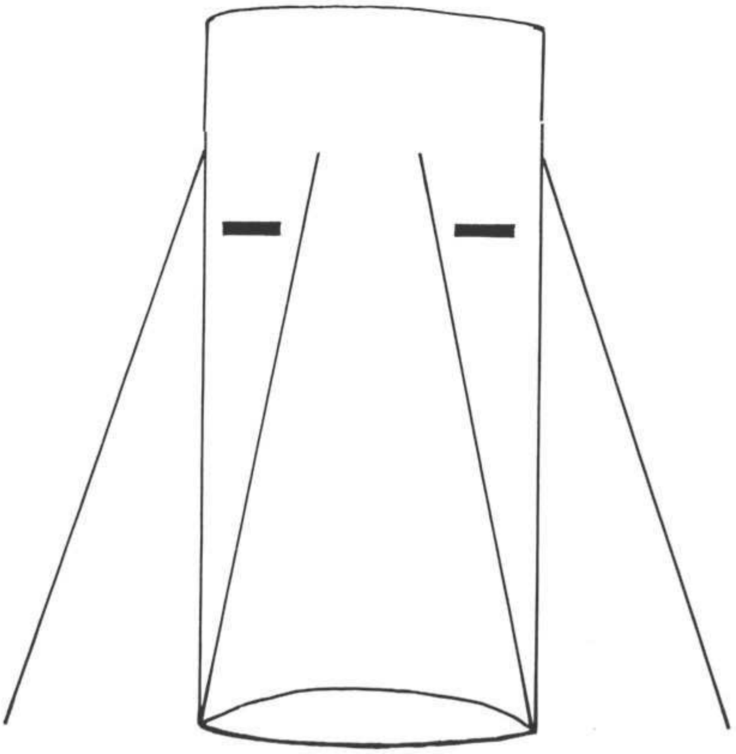
The remainder of the Bebedouro report is not of special correlative value as regards to the Glendale sighting, though the entire FSR article is heartily

recommended to any student of UFOs for its sheer vivacity and degree of strangeness. Our purpose has been served here by pointing up the similarities between the two objects' configurations. The fact that the Bebedouro object had lenticular or flattened platforms on top and botton need not detract from our correlative study. It is possible that these were actually present on the Glendale object also, but unseen by the two witnesses. The top platform, if actually existent, could have been shrouded in shadow, since the object's bottom light reflected only about two-thirds of the cylinder's height. The lower platform, if actually existant, could have been hidden behind the extremely bright bottom light.

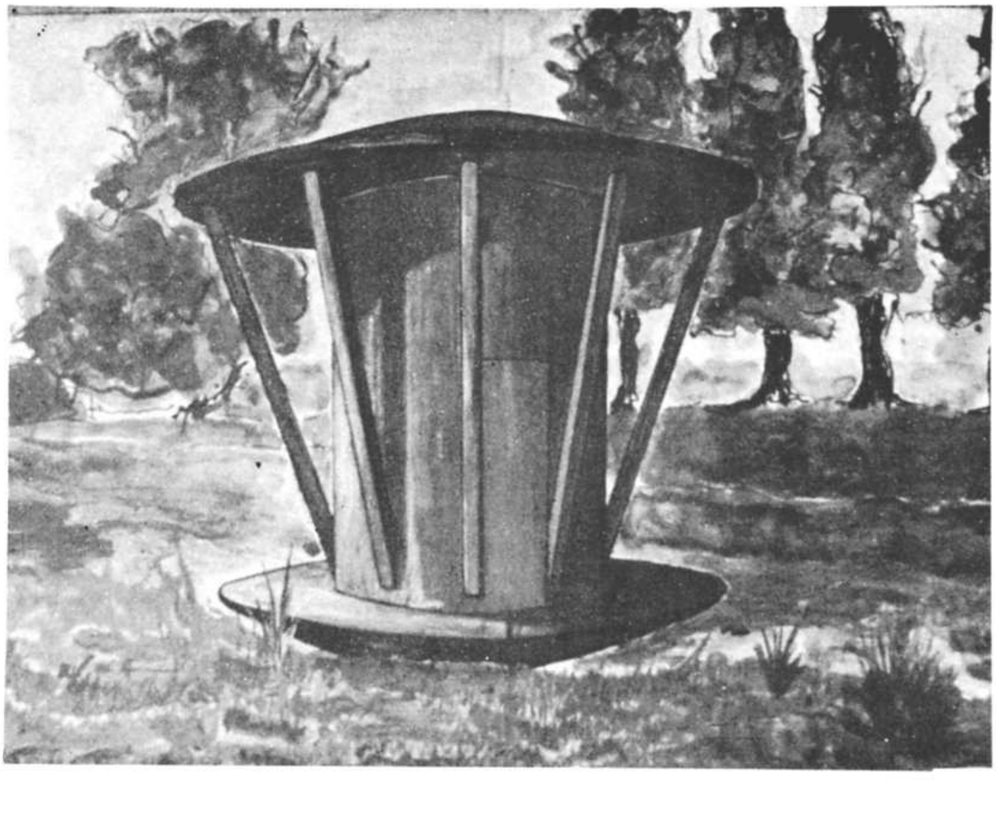
However, another possible correlative factor cannot be ignored. It may be of no importance whatever, or again it may be of tremendous value. Jose Antonio was a Brazilian soldier, and he was informed by his abductors, by means of laborious sign language, that they wished to make use of his military and police knowledge to get samples of human weaponry and other information about the earth for them.

If we consider the fact that the Glendale object encountered and manoeuvred with a helicopter – a sophisticated earth machine – with two professional observers inside, we might be permitted to wonder. If the Glendale object *was* an actual UFO – and not a mistaken hoax balloon – was it seeking another José Antônio to abduct? Or had its occupants, if any, decided to gather their own information regarding earth weaponry and resources?

The Glendale witnesses, when shown the Bebedouro FSR sketch, were impressed with its likeness to what they had seen themselves, but remain completely unaware of any reason for their encounter. There is no evidence that any "message" - telepathic or otherwise – was relayed to them, and of course the 4-5 minute duration of sighting does not permit us to consider any possibility of physical abduction. In fact, the names and occupation of the two Glendale observers were released *by mistake* in the February 1977 Mufon UFO Journal *and are not to be used in any futher research studies.*[5] It is a sad note for ufology that the United States, superior as it is in educational advantages and tech-



Above: Composite sketch by Mrs. Druffel, combining features seen by the two officers in the helicopter. Compare with the drawing of the Bebedouro object. Correlation is even more marked if the sketch is viewed from upside down.



Right: Photograph of a painting by A. F. do Carmo based on the description given by Jose Antonio da Silva of the craft in which he was allegedly kidnapped. This illustration is taken from Flying Saucer Review, Vol. 19, No. 6, November-December 1973.

nology, lags far behind Brazil in its public and official acceptance of the UFO phenomena.

As a footnote to end this study of the Glendale Helicopter sighting of February 1, 1977 it might be of interest to include a short summary of the mini-flap which coincided with it. For an entire month after the helicopter incident was phoned into SKYNET-MUFON on February 2, 1977, residents of Glendale and surrounding communities reported a large number of unexplained objects. There were twenty cases investigated, covering sighting dates from July 4th, 1976, through March 6, 1977 from a relatively tiny area, approximately 11 x 11 miles square.[6] These cases indicate a local flap of sizeable proportions. Of the reports, one was a CE III with landing, another a possible CE III. The helicopter encounter is regarded as a CE I. At least 7 other reports were puzzling NLs (Nocturnal lights?—ED) of possible scientific value, particularly one situation involving a recurring light which might permit future instrumented study. Five were probable hoax balloons of an unknown type, and another was identified as Venus. The remaining five reports fall into the never-never land between possible UFO and IFO. The flap ended with a rousing landing report, classified CE II which is still being investigated and holds considerable promise of scientific value.

Considering the fact that in this writer's experience, at least, only *2 - 3 percent* of ordinary raw data reports turn out to have scientific value, *the close encounter cases* from this localized flap alone, constitute a *15 percent* unexplained, and this figure does not even consider the three or four other NLs which may yet yield pay dirt.

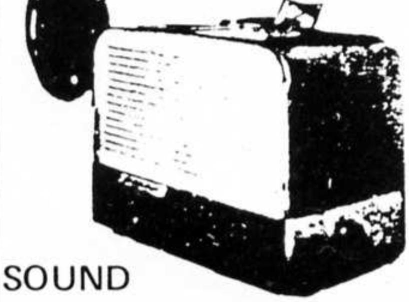
The mini-flap, however, was not altogether a pleasant research experience. It yielded fascinating data, intelligent witnesses, and an astonishing degree of public interest and co-operation. But it also pointed up the abysmal state in which present-day ufology finds itself. The CE III case, for instance, lay hidden for eight months, simply because the witness did not know where to report it. There were alleged physical traces associated with this report which were no longer visible by the time MUFON investigator Vince Uhlenkott was made aware of the case. In another instance, two witnesses to a potentially interesting NL-disc was referred to a UFO-reporting Hotline in Seattle by the local airport, instead of to the police board of an adjacent community which would have relayed the call immediately to our SKYNET phones.

Beyond all doubt, the study of this mini-flap, which co-existed with the Glendale helicopter sighting of February 1, 1977, points up the need for organized, funded, and adequately staffed *local* refferal systems, known and used by all official agencies and by the general public.

Notes and References

1. Documented report in MUFON, and CUFOS files entitled "SKYNET log: The Glendale sighting", 23pp.(by Druffel)
2. *Flying Saucer Review* (FSR) Vol. 19, No.6, Nov-Dec 1973, "Abduction at Bebedouro", by Hulvio Brant Alexio, pp. 6-14. [Vol. 19, No. 6, is out of print but this remarkable report is still obtainable in *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review:* — ED]
3. The verbal estimate of height of the Bebedouro object differs somewhat from the FSR sketch, (Figure A). It is in this sketch that the similarities with the Glendale object are most marked.
4. Whether the Bebedouro machine merely reverted 90 degrees back to its original position *or* actually completed a 180 degree turn in upside down position is immaterial here. The important thing is that the manoeuvre as described suggested that the machine was able to adjust its position radically without normal effects of gravity being felt *inside*.
5. *Mufon UFO Journal*, February 1977 "UFO Sighted from helicopter," by Druffel, pp. 13-15.
6. Documented report in MUFON and CUFOS files, entitled "SKYNET" Log: Supplement to Glendale Helicopter Sighting, Feb. 1, 1977" (by Druffel). 17 pp. This reoprt reviews only 18 of the 20 cases referred to in this article's statistics.)

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.



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A "FLYING 'MAN' IN BLACK" IN RUSSIA

Vladimir V. Rubtsov

This interesting item was part of an article which appeared in the Soviet popular-scientific journal *Tekhnika-Molodezhi* No. 10 of 1976. The translation from the Russian was by the author, our contributor.

FROM time to time I have the opportunity of reading the splendid and informative journal, *Flying Saucer Review,* and I would like to supplement a report which was published in your Volume 23, No. 6. This is the account of the "flying" humanoid in Pueto Rico.

Several years ago I was in Kislovodsk (U.S.S.R.) where I spoke with a witness of a similar case which she alleges took place in 1936 in Kazakhstan. She was a Mrs. E.E. Loznaya, and her report was recorded. It later formed part of an article of mine which appeared in *Tekhnika-Molodezhi* ("Technics for Youth") 1976 No. 10. Here is her account:

"This event took place in the winter of 1936 in sovkhoz (state farm) 'Oktyabrskiy' in the Kazakhstan, Pavlodar region. I was then fifteen. Early in the morning I went to school by a lonely country road.

"It was already light. although the sun had not risen. The weather was fine and it was freezing. Suddenly I caught sight of a dark point moving rapidly in the sky on my left. It came closer, grew larger, and in a matter of seconds I saw a man-like figure dressed in black and seen in profile. The course of its flight formed an angle of about 60° with the road.

"This 'man' was, to my mind, of medium height his black clothes covered him completely, like overalls. His head (more exactly—something like a helmet) and massive ('square') arms tightly fixed to his body were perfectly visible. I saw no hands and feet. I could see behind his back an oval thing like a rucksack.

"Looking with fright at the 'flying man' I noticed suddenly that he had changed his course and was now flying towards me. When he turned [I saw] his right arm was slightly bent at the elbow. Now the 'man' was seen full face, but I could not examine his features for in place of a face there was just an entirely black surface.

"At that instant I heard an increasing rumble as if it was a flying mechanism and not a living man. By now the distance between us had shortened to about 40 metres. My numb terror had passed and I had turned back in search of shelter but there was none on the snow-covered steppe. I then turned again towards the 'flying man' and ... saw nobody. Maybe he had made an abrupt change in his course, or maybe he had dived in a snowdrift ... but the next moment I was running towards my home.

"This sighting lasted about one minute, but I have remembered it for all these years. I can also add that I have seen no similar sighting, either before of after that occasion."

UFO LEAVES HOLE IN THE SKY

Ken Phillips, former BUFORA National Investigations Co-ordinator, kindly investigated this case for NUFON. It is quite an intriguing one.

OVER Christmas/New Year 1977-78, 62 -year- old Edith Lane was staying with her son (36-year-old Derek) at his home in the village of Exhall, Warwickshire. At dusk on December 30, 1977, at about 4.30 pm – a cold day with a blustery breeze but no rain – the sky was quite full of cloud, some fairly low. Here and there were patches of blue.

Derek was just closing the curtains of a window that faces WNW over quite an expanse of open land. Suddenly he caught sight of a brilliant object approaching from the west through the gathering gloom He called out and his mother, wife (Hazel) and their 14-year-old daughter, Kerrie, all came over to watch. The object was oval in shape and glowing a bright golden colour. It seemed to be about 20 feet in diameter, although it was probably up to two miles distant. Around its extremities it seemed to shimmer

The object approached across the area of Newdigate Colliery and then stopped over a row of electricity pylons. Here it hovered for several minutes. The witnesses feel that it was in view about 5 minutes.

The object suddenly began to move and accelerated rapidly to a tremendous speed. It moved away westwards, climbing as it did so, and then turned to the north west and was lost to view among the clouds. The strangest thing is, however, that at the spot where it had been hovering there seemed to be a hole in the sky. All the clouds covering a roughly oval space, several times the diameter of the object, had dispersed. This condition remained for many minutes after the object had gone, despite winds moving the clouds quite noticeably. Then all returned to normal once more.

Ball lightning could be a possible explanation, although there were no storms in the area, and the object seems to have been visible too long, and to have behaved in a manner contrary to known "habits" of this electrical phenomenon. However, the proximity of the power sources makes an electrical phenomenon quite feasible – perhaps a most unusual form of ball lightning? The hole seems attributable to electrostatic forces in the air in the immediate vicinity – in what seems to have been a radius of about 80 to 100 feet around the object. That may be interesting food for thought regarding cases with electromagnetic interference.

JELLY-LIKE ENTITIES AT MACHYNLLETH

YOUNG BOY STUMBLES ACROSS LANDED OBJECT IN WELSH HILLS.

Andrew Collins

A report specially prepared for UFOIN and Flying Saucer Review and dated August 10, 1978

REPORTS of non-humanoid entities throughout the world are relatively few, although those that have been documented vary considerably. The idea that irregular or non-humanoid forms exist in the physical plane, is much harder to accept by the witness; a "living" entity should have a body, a head, and two arms and two legs.

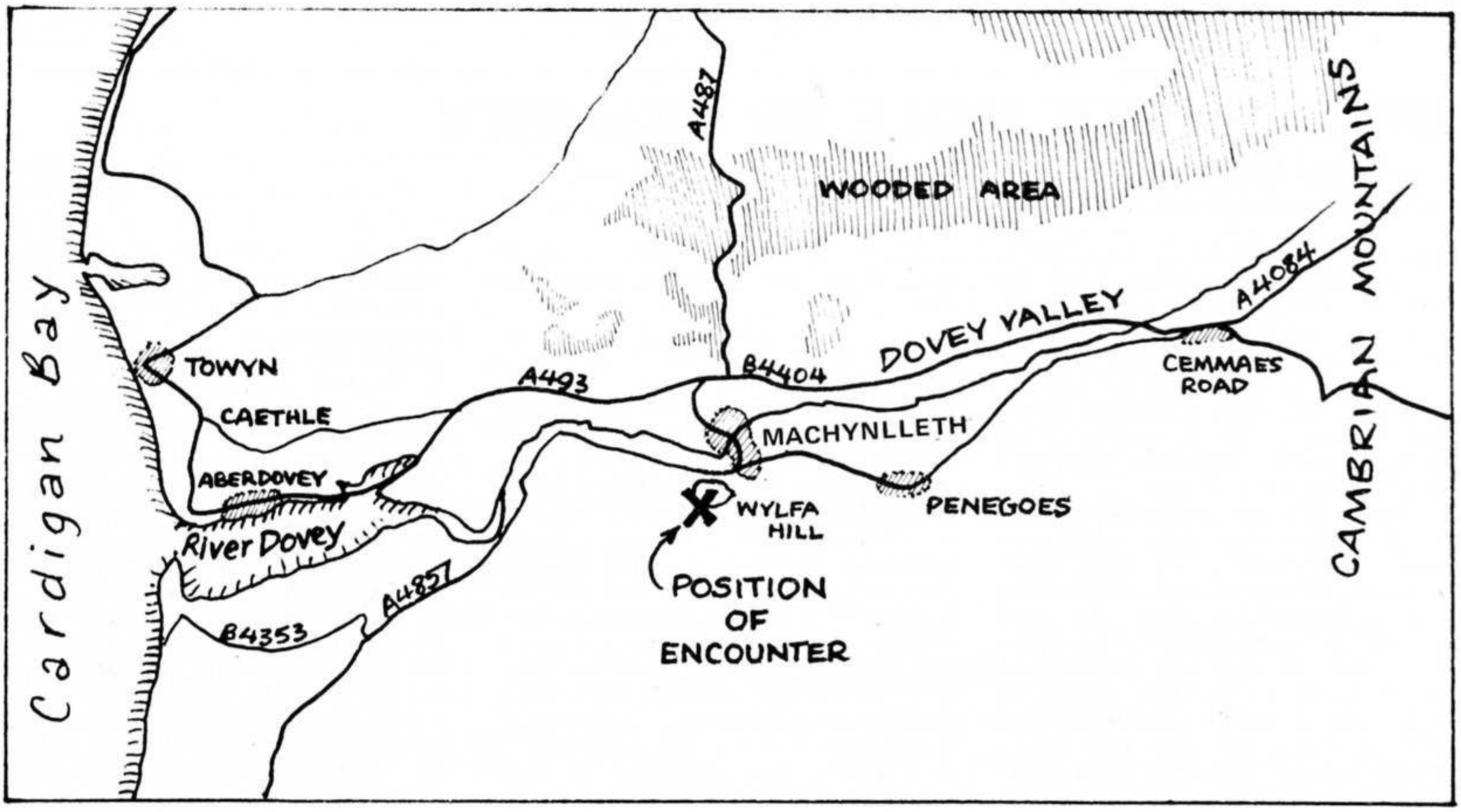
The following case presents a landed craft and entities, which through their appearance, have left the witness in a remarkable yet pathetic state: he is a young boy from Hutton in Essex, by the name of Trevor P.

Trevor was on holiday with his family in the Cambrian Mountains of Mid-Wales during July 1975, when he stumbled across a strange domed craft at the top of a hill. The craft contained two non-humanoid masses, and was decked out in colours the boy had never seen before. Eventually, it disappeared on the spot by blending into its surrounding area like a chameleon. Sadly the psychological effects on the boy followed the encounter and this unfortunately is a price witnesses sometimes quietly pay.

The incident first came to our attention after a letter from the boy was received by Miss Jenny Randles, secretary of both the UFO Investigators Network and the Northern UFO Network, via the *Daily Express* in response to a request by the national newspaper, in February 1978, for people to come forward and tell of their experiences.

An interview was arranged to meet the boy and his parents at their home on March 29, 1978. This was attended by parapsychologist, psychologist, trained hypnotist, and occultist Mr. Graham Phillips, my colleague Barry King, and myself. The following account, thoughts, and conclusions were drawn from that interview. A separate report concerning the psychological state of the boy and evaluation of the case, will be completed by Graham Phillips.

Trevor, his parents and brother, were in Mid-Wales



on holiday, and on the day concerned, Tuesday, July 22, 1975, the family journeyed to the area of Dovey Vale, near Machynlleth in Powys, formerly Montgomeryshire. Trevor's parents were to view a cottage in the area for possible future accomodation while in Wales. The time was 17.00 and the cottage was located on the A487 (T) road, near Wyfla Hill (Ordanance Survey Map No. 135 Ref: 738999). Trevor being a "loner," decided to go for a walk, away from the activity, and chose to stroll idly up the 250 ft. hill which lay to the south. The area is pastoral, ideal for grazing. The boy reached the brow of the hill and, casually glancing forward over the ridge, was puzzled at what he saw on the ground in front of him. Realising his vulnerable position, he ducked behind one of the boulders that litter the area, and watched carefully.

In front of him, not more than 50 ft. away, was a strange stationary object apparently resting on the ground. It consisted of a large circular base, like a "paddling pool," approximately 40 ft. in diameter, and 7 to 8 ft. high, with large circular lights approximately 5 ft. in diameter positioned around the base. Each of these were shining brightly, and each were of a colour not recognised by the boy. Evidently no light was cast off on to the ground. Between each light (there were about seven in view) there were deep grooves or curves set into the base, which itself was "silvery" in colour and rounded at its edges.

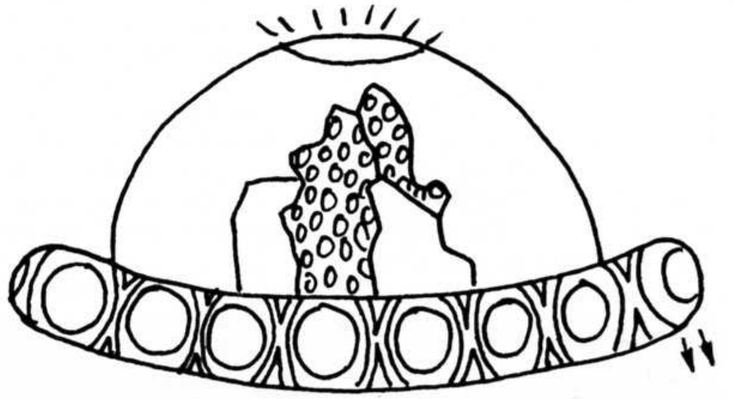
On the base sat a hemispherical,transparent dome which, if viewed from a horizontal plane, rose vertically from the base, and then arched over into the hemisphere.

At the central apex of the dome was another large light which seemed to be fitted to the apex from the inside, and not interfering with the curvature of the hemisphere. Again the size seemed to be about 5 ft. across, a colour being emitted which was unknown to the boy. The dome itself seemed to be lesser in diameter than the base. In the centre of the base, inside the dome was a "big metal" unit about 15 ft. long and 7 ft. tall at its highest point. This consisted, from left to right, of a vertical side, eventually sloping away towards the right at a 45° angle, then levelling out into a horizontal top which stepped down twice in an irregular pattern. As stated it appeared to be made of 'metal' being silver in colour. No marks, switches, knobs etc., could be descerned on the unit at all.

Also inside the transparent dome were two forms which appeared to be what have been termed "entities." These were described as looking like "massive pieces of jelly," irregular in shape and some 7 ft. across and of a similar height. The forms were a translucent whitish colour, and inside them were hundreds of white discs like English-style "doughnuts" each possibly 6 inches in diameter. The masses were constantly changing shape to a considerable degree, although from the movement of the white discs it appeared that the centre of each mass remained inactive. No real shape or shapes could be attributed to the changing forms, other than that they were irregular. The surface of the jelly seemed smooth although Trevor is not certain on this point. Although the forms changed shape, their masses seemed to remain constant. No other details were visible.

One of the forms was positioned in front of the metal unit, whilst the other was half obsucred behind it. Trevor waited about 20-25 seconds, frightened but inquisitive trying to fathom out the situation. He was still crouched behind the boulder. Then Trevor noticed a "panel" or section which was beginning to open on the extreme right hand side of the base, slowly pivoting down about a horizontal axis towards the ground. This was approximately 7 ft. by 7 ft. in size. Trevor has no idea what he saw inside the base where the panel had opened. The movement took approximately 7-8 seconds to complete after which the entity which was in full view started "floating" towards the opened section, gradually lowering itself down a possible duct or hatchway and out through the opening. Trevor, realising what was happening proceeded to do a "four minute mile" back over the ridge and down the hillside. On reaching the bottom he said someting to his father, something he cannot remember and then for no apparant reason ran back up to the position of the grounded object. When it was again in view he saw that the entity had moved back to its original position and the "hatch" or "panel" had now closed. He also heard a strange constant noise which he likened to "a car 'revving' up but quieter."

At that point the large circular disc of light on the objects's side, together with the light on the apex, began to flash simultaneously in the colours of the surrounding countryside, i.e. green grass, brown soil, blue sky, etc., which seemed to accelerate faster and faster and became larger and larger, until they were almost enveloping the whole craft, eventually blending more and more into the background, until the craft was no longer visible, or apparently there. Just like a chameleon blending into the background. Evidently the lights did not take on the shape or forms of the natural objects, but just their colours. Trevor had incredible problems trying to explain this process, and had no idea how really to express what actually happened. Nor had he had any idea regarding what happened to the objects inside the craft, and it seems that they too were enveloped in the strange light process.



The object as seen and drawn by Trevor on July 22, 1975. Place of exit arrowed.

Once the object was totally invisible, Trevor again ran at top speed over the ridge and down the hillside, back to his father who was waiting impatiently at the bottom.

I would now like to take up the boy's fathers's account of the series of events once the boy had reached him.

Evidently Trevor on reaching his father (the first time) calmly said "You won't believe me – come on," then ran back towards the ridge. His father then saw him lie down for a short time, then get up and run back down the hillside, tripping over and falling at his father's feet. This time the boy was, in the words of his father "really petrified."

"A jelly man got out of it" shouted Trevor. Mr. P. realised that something odd had been seen by the boy on the ridge, and asked Trevor to accompany him back up the hill to see what all the fuss was about. This they did, although on reaching the place of the observation, nothing that could possibly have been connected with the object was to be seen. His father noticed that a strange noise was being produced as the wind passed through the grass, which could hardly have explained the phenomena claimed to have been seen, and certainly nothing to support what was claimed to have been seen in the first part of the encounter.

That concluded the encounter for Trevor, but at that point the family had not realised the nature of the problems that would result from the boy's terrifying experience. This, to them, was only a figment of his imagination or, at the most, an over-dramatised misinterpretation, which I suppose would have been a logical assumption since no physical evidence was found.

The family's holiday continued, Trevor appeared to be alright in the eyes of his parents, so all was forgotten. One day after the experience, the boy lost the use of his vocal cords. This was immediately brought to the attention of a local doctor, who examined both Trevor and his brother, for he later had complained of a sore throat. The doctor decided that it was tonsilitis.

Three weeks after the experience (two weeks after he had returned to school) Trevor became blind in his left eye, and this continued for some time. Also at that stage, the boy started to complain of thumping noises in his head, and thereafter could not sleep for any length of time for more than six weeks. (N.B: During the six weeks the boy stayed up at night, usually downstairs drawing.) Trevor's parents took him to see an eye specialist soon after the blindness set in, and from there took him to a psychiatrist who was told of the experience in Wales. The psychiatrist admitted that the effects noted were psychomatic, and possibly stemmed from witnessing the object and its entities.

Unfortunately, the effects worsened, with the blindness changing from the left to the right eye, then back again. Then the unfortuante lad became totally blind, but after that the condition cleared. Trevor's psychological make-up also changed considerably: whereas before the experience, he was a quiet, introverted boy, he now became short tempered, agressive and argumentative. As a result he has formidable problems at school, both because he had missed so much schooling since 1975, and because he cannot get on with the other children. The eye disorder was still present when we saw him, and at present (June 1978) he still visits a psychiatrist.

Trevor does not suffer from hallucinations, and has an unimaginative mind. He is not psychic in any way, and neither are his parents. No paranormal-type experience or incidents have been noted either. No psychological symptoms which invariably are noted with subjects of close encounters were in evidence at all with Trevor.

Trevor is totally ignorant of all aspects of the UFO phenomenon, which is a relevant point when assessing the reality of his encounter. The description of the object involved is not entirely new to us, with the suggests itself as an "ideal" shape. The entities are the oddest of features as also are the "undescribable" colours, and the manner of disappearance. Similar non-human type forms have been reported before, although not with the shape changing and the exact description of the translucent appearance, and the "doughnut" shaped objects. These suggest something that would be hard to dismiss as sheer fantasy. Strange colours which beggar description have been noted on occasions. The reportrd manner of disappearance seems incredibly odd.

Everything points to the fact that Trevor P. did have an objective encounter with a strange craft and entities that were very real to him. Whether it would have been possible for others to have seen the object would have depended on how physical the object really was.

Many UFO close encounters seem to be staged events, physical in reality, or seemingly physical to the percipient, and some being staged for their benefit. In the case of Trevor P. it is difficult to decide whether he chanced on the activity, or whether the activity was staged. I suspect the former. Whichever it was, the effects resulting from the experience are sad, although possible with a considerable number of close encounter witnesses. The viewing of such a thing can be a terrifying experience, which leaves the subject in a state of shock and leads to psychomatic effects. Mind acceptance of the phonemena we term 'UFOs' is something that varies with each person. Unfortuantely Trevor P. suffered badly. Perhaps mind acceptance is a principle reason why open contact has never been (and never will be?) made.

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THE STONEHENGE MOVIES

Jenny Randles & Peter Warrington

Investigation of this case has been conducted over a protracted period on behalf of UFOIN and FSR. An acknowledgement is made of the assistance of the Cheshire based UFO society, FUFOR, in the early stages of the investigation. Roslyn Parsons of the Manchester UFO Research Association also assisted in several interviews.

IN Flying Saucer Review Vol. 23, No. 6, brief introductary details were given of the UFO events that, allegedly, had occurred close to ancient Stonehenge in Wiltshire in the Southern England, during October 1977. After studying at great length the detailed testimony of the witnesses, and following through the investigation of the film stated to have been taken during the events, we now feel we can present a considered report.

In our preliminary report it was stated that the case was interesting for several reasons: these included an extended series of observations over a long period of time, alleged electromagnetic effects, and possible phychological effects.

It is pointed out at the outset that invesigation has shown that the extent of the incidents and their associated effects may not be as great as first thought. We feel that the details published here are a more accurate reflection of the true situation, and should be regarded as superceding the original published data.

Previously the witnesses had demanded anonymity. However, they have now given us permission to use their names and, because of this we can now refer to the case as the "John Flattley Film." There are six witnesses of the events. Mr. and Mrs. John Flattley and their daughter, and Mr. and Mrs. Terry Hayes and their daughter. Both couples are in early middle age and their daughters in their early teens.

The families are close friends, and both come from Cheshire, where the husbands hold responsible jobs.

In mid October 1977 the six friends travelled south to Stonehenge where John Flattley intended to make a short documentary film about the monument and its mystique. However, this was regarded only as a secondary purpose, their main intention being to have a few days break from the pressures of modern life, and to enjoy the peace of rural surroundings.

The party drove to Wiltshire in a caravanette that they had hired for the purpose. Upon arriving on the afternoon of Sunday, October 16, 1977, they searched around for a suitable camp site. Not finding a suitable place they were advised, ultimately, to try some common ground just off a minor road close to the monument itself. Here they remained for the next few days with a panorama of the giant stones and the wild setting before them.

When we, the authors, first approached the witnesses in March 1978, we were shown the film and told the story by the Flattley family. In the first instance we were told that the events we were about to see had occurred on three separate evenings. Since then the witnesses have reconsidered the available data, and have concluded amoungst themselves that the majority (if not all) of the event took place on the evening of Tuesday, October 18, 1977, between 6.20 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. B.S.T. (i.e. G.M.T. + 1 hour). This change of testimony is accepted by John Flattley only because all the other witnesses are sure it is correct, and it is a discrepancy which the authors are at a loss to explain.

It should be noted that, other than this, all the witnesses are adamant about the basic details. Even so, confusion as to whether it was one night or three is very difficult to comprehend. The reader should, we feel, bear this point in mind when studying this report.

The Events

Early on the evening of October 18th the families were going about the various tasks of clearing away after the evening meal, and tending to a camp fire. John noticed on orange light in the sky at some distance from them. Puzzled and thoughtful the party continued for a few minutes when another similar light appeared. Both lights were visible for no more than a few seconds before fading away.

On the appearance of the second light John Flattley turned the camera and filmed the final second or two of the light's existence. Even more puzzled, the six began to look about the sky for more lights. Every few minutes one would appear. In all it is estimated about 15 to 18 were observed over the 3 hour period.

The lights appeared as golden spheres with a slightly diffuse edge. Their angular size was apparantly quite small, and when viewed in still frame are even smaller than when moving (see accompanying stills which, of course, lose definition from the oringinal film). No obvious differences in any of the lights were noticed, although Terry Hayes did at one stage view them through a telescope. The only possible feature (noticed only when subsequently the film was viewed by an atmospheric physicist) is that there is a diffusion of colour with yellow always tending to the right hand edge. As can be viewed on the film the

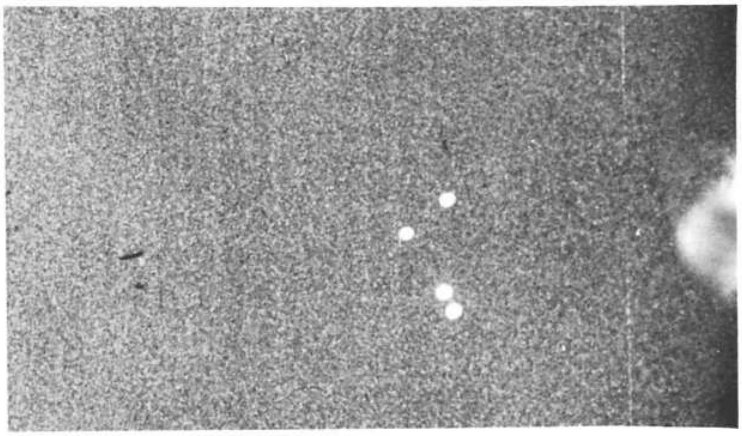

Photo 1: Still from Kodachrome 40 reel

lights flicker or pulsate, but with no apparent pattern at all.

In general, the motions of the objects were of two kinds. Either they moved into the vicinity of the witnesses – from what is thought to be some distance away – and then meandered about gently before disappearing by "melting away," or they were said to have appeared "out of thin air" and remained almost stationary before "extinguishing" in a similar manner. It was said that one or two of the lights actually rose vertically into the sky before disappearing. This comment was made by John Flattley, in our presence, on a television programme, and was subsequently confirmed. However, the filmed sequences (of about 3 minutes) show only limited motions. While it is true that they do appear to show one sequence where the object clearly rises, on detailed analysis of the film it would appear that this is in all probability due to the camera being "zoomed in" to the object, creating an artificial effect quite unintentionally.

We shall return in more detail to the film, and what it shows, in a moment.

The majority of the lights were seen in groups, sometimes of only two, but on others as many as seven or eight in the sky at one time. Occasionally single lights were also seen. It is said that one group was in a 'V' formation. This was filmed but the film reel ran out before the formation was completed. The film does not, therefore, show apparent lining up of a partial 'V' formation (see photograph).

The duration of the phenomena has proved difficult to estimate. This is unfortunate because in many ways it is the most important piece of information connected with this case. There is little doubt in our minds that we are talking about no more than seconds in the majority of instances, although one or two lights may have been around for a minute or more. When the film was originally shown to us, the Flattley family stated that one object hovered for an estimated 40 minutes. This was extensively broadcast in the press and on television and radio, and was never refuted by the witnesses. However, as before, they have now reconsidered the facts and say that this was probably an exagerration. Of course it is well known that witnesses do tend to overestimate durations, and in this case it has been practically impossible to pin down a meaningful estimate and although we consider the duration could have been about ten minutes, but we feel it is safe to assume "several" minutes.

The Effects

Shortly before the first light was observed the party had switched on a battery-powered television set. After a while the picture went off totally, as if the batteries had run down. The adults attempted to get it to function again, but without success. Then the first of the lights materialised. The witnesses were obviously distracted and did in fact switch off the set mid-way during the events. So far as we can ascertain the set was not used again during their stay, but on their return home it was switched on and found to work quite normally. It was allowed to run itself out of power and the batteries lasted as if fully powered.

Later in the evening, while the objects were being viewed, the two girls were playing with battery-operated radio sets that had a small compass in the base. There was no effect on the transmission or reception, but the children say that when the lights were in view the compass needles deflected in alternate directions, swinging quite wildly.

The implications of these reports are that the phenomenon had an electromagnetic field associated with it.

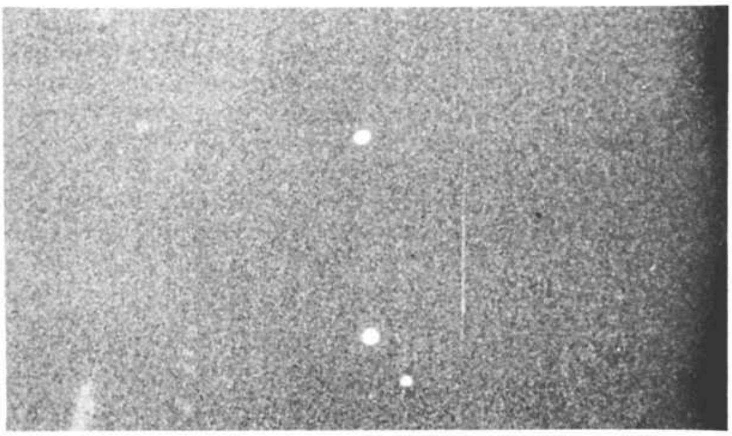

Photo 2: A second still from Kodachrome 40 reel

At one stage, apparently, Terry Hayes tried to approach the objects more closely (although it is not clear how close he got, it still appears to have been some way). The other witnesses remained where they were watching an object which they described as being the apparant size of a beachball.

During the return journey Terry complained of feeling unwell. Even so it was a couple of weeks after the return home before it was decided by his doctor that he needed hospital investigation. He was admitted to hospital for several days suffering from a severe body rash which, subsequently, cleared away totally.

There has been much comment about this rash, and we do indeed know more about it than we can write herein. Terry Hayes has almost wished that the subject be avoided, and ensured that all reference to it was deleted from the television programme. All he will permit us to report at this stage is a quote from himself "... enquiries are still being made about

the nature of the rash which, at present, remains a mystery."

John Flattley testifies that one morning (after seeing the objects the evening before – hence we are to assume it was the morning of Wednesday, October 19th) he had been suffering from a bad headache following a rainstorm. At 2.00 a.m., unable to sleep, he went out of the tent in which he and Terry were sleeping, and walked in the crisp air that often follows rainfall.

As he was walking along the lane adjacent to the tent and caravanette his flashlight beam illuminated a dark lump the size of a cow's torso. This was in a field directly in front of the stones of the henge. It was, he says like a lump covered with a tarpaulin. He recalled nothing in the field during daylight and no animals were allowed to graze there. He was puzzled, but went back to the camp.

However, it kept worrying him and he could not help wondering, "Did I really see that thing like a slug?" He took a few steps back towards the field and projected his torch beam where the thing had been but it was gone. The next morning there was no sign of it, and no indication that anything had been there with, for example, no dry areas on the otherwise wet grass. He remains puzzled, but certain that he saw something. Nevertheless, he prefers us only to relate this account in passing.

One final event that we have to relate may in fact be quite significant. When the formation of lights was visible a searchlight beam of considerable intensity was shone on to them. The origin was unknown, and some distance away beyond the horizon. The beam did not scan the sky but "locked" directly on to the group of objects. When the beam struck the formation the witnesses say that the seven or eight objects reacted by breaking formation and disappearing abruptly.

The Film

As has been mentioned already, part of the testimony is confirmed by some 3 minutes of 8 mm colour movie film. The film was made using a CANON AZ10.14 E camera with a 7 mm -70 mm f 1.4 zoom lens. It is quite an advanced type of camera and the witness has had several hours experience with it.

Two types of film stock were used. Kodachrome

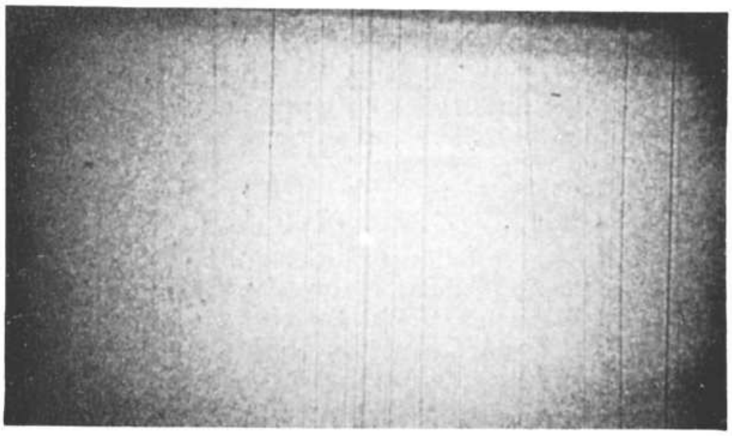

Photo 3: Still from Kodakchrome 160 film

40 is normal daylight film, and formed the majority of the stock. Some Ektachrome 160 film for use in low light conditions were also used. Only a small amount of this was taken by John Flattley as an experiment in the first use of this newly introduced film stock. In total only a few minutes stock was taken on the outing because, as he stated, the film about Stonehenge was only an incidental factor in their visit.

The sequences on the Kodachrome 40 film show one, two three and four lights in various combinations and movements. They move through the frame gently and disappear sometimes whilst the film is still running. Several are seen to appear suddenly and

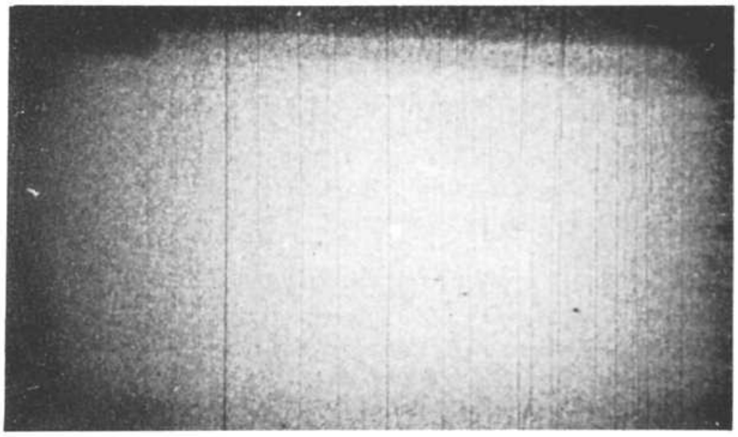

Photo 4: Another still from Kodachrome 160 film

and one or two give the impression of spiralling downwards rotating around one another. Several are already in existence when the shot commences and presumably continue after the shot concludes. This enables a *minimum* lifetime of about 30 seconds to be inferred for at least one object.

The objects on this film stock are seen only as silhouettes against a completely darkened background. This is because the dusk and night conditions provide insufficient light to record other than the bright objects.

The Ektachrome 160 film is, however, more useful because landscape detail is visible in some shots. John Flattley apparently realised, whilst filming, the need to include foreground for perspective, and thus we have much more evidential sequences on record. This film was used up in early evening shots only.

On this low light film only single objects are visible in each shot, but a clear impression is given of the orange ball standing out in the misty gloom. During the sequence the lights give the impression that they move horizontally relative to the camera, and also appear to slow down and stop for a period of several seconds. However, it must be emphasised that these are only impressions (although the witnesses claim that their visual observation supports this viewpoint). It should be noted that the effect of the camera zooming-in did, in one shot, produce the effect that the object was rising and moving fast towards the camera. Consequently, there can be no confirmation of what the objects on the film actually do, without extensive analysis of the film of a very specialist type.

It should be added that at all times on the film the behaviour of the lights is gentle, and in the main they

are very slow moving – consistent, it would appear, with something windbourne. Several stills from both types of film stock, showing single objects and formations, are here included.

The film has been examined at length by analysts for the Kodak Company at their Hemel Hempstead laboratories. We owe them a great debt for the amount of work they have been prepared to put into this. They have excluded chemical faults and processing defects of any kind. They are also confident that the images preclude trickery of any type. They considered several possibilities of this but found no evidence whatsoever.

Additionally, they looked at several possible explanations, such as laser beam images, and car headlights reflecting off low clouds, but were able confidently to reject these. Their final considered opinion was that the film is genuine, the colouration is very close to what it really was, and it shows a sequence of lighted objects that were actually present in the sky at the time when the film was taken – the nature unknown but probably natural.

CONCLUSIONS

The film only really came to the attention of investigators following the *Daily Express* UFO series when John Flattley telephoned the *Express* simply to say that he had some evidence in which they might be interested. They did not follow this up at all, but the authors did after an allocation of the *Daily Express* reports had been handed to *Flying Saucer Review* and subsequently passed to UFOIN for investigation.

At first, the importance of the case was not recognised as we knew no details. By coincidence the authors were working at the time with Granada TV as consultants on a documentary about UFOs. The researcher with whom we were involved asked if she could come with us to the initial interview with the Flattleys "to see how a UFO investigation is conducted." When the film was viewed it was immediately requested for screening and, while the witnesses agreed, there was some concern over the attendant publicity (which the witnesses did not want). The TV programme was scheduled to go out two days later but was postponed. This allowed vital time for the authors to commence investigation and for the film to be analysed to check its authenticity.

While all this was going on one of the participants provided by Granada TV for the programme chose to "leak" the story to the rival BBC Radio and *Daily Express* newspaper, without it seems consulting the witnesses, or ourselves. Because of this Granada TV decided to show the film on the ITN networked news programmes (for having heard the BBC broadcast the other ITV companies were by then anxious to know what another of their stations had acquired). The finished programme was then screened next day in other parts of the country, as well as in the Granada area, and several further radio and newspaper features on the case followed.

The publicity was self perpetuating, and was not due to the desires of the witnesses or the investigators, who in most instances were the last to know that a particular feature was forthcoming! The intention had never been to publicise the film in any major way at all.

There were one or two plausible explanations which surfaced early in the investigation. One school of thought (championed by science writer Ian Ridpath) was that the film showed an atmospheric phenomenon known as "ball lightning." This was rejected by most people early on because the reported parameters of the objects (such as size, duration and repeatability) fell well outside the known limits of the ball lightning phenomenon. .

Another idea was that the objects were in fact flares. People who have seen these said that the film showed objects which were very similar. The witness testimony was by them considered to be grossly erroneous, because otherwise sizes and durations in particular did not fit this explanation.

Naturally enough we had considered this explanation at the start, but had almost discounted it for several reasons. The film does not appear to show flares. The colouration (orange), we were reliably informed, is not used for military flares, and the objects' behaviour, at first sight, was not consistent with a slowly falling flare of brief duration. Also the low light film shows no trace whatsoever of smoke trails, or of any substance behind the lights, such as a parachute. Futhermore the purpose of a flare (to illuminate) was not fulfilled by any of the objects. Yet again, military sources in the Stonehenge area (of which there are many) had viewed the film and advised us "off the record" that they did not consider flares a likely explanation. This was all in addition to the then witness testimony which argued strongly against the flares hypothesis.

Our thoughts, in these early stages, were quite clearly that the phenomenon filmed was not yet identified but was probably some natural event. In a deliberate attempt to prevent unwarranted assumptions that the objects filmed were solid, physical craft like UFOs (which, it should be stressed, at no time have the witnesses tried to claim) we had continually played on the the theme that the film showed an "unknown natural phenomenon." This was our approach both in the press and on radio and television.

It is remarkable how we, as investigators, have had our reputations challenged over this case. Richard Colborne of BUFORA, writing in *Bufora Journal*, accused us of making a significant case out of a film which "obviously" showed flares. Alan West of the BUCD, wrote in BUDC Bulletin that we had made fools our of ourselves and our colleagues by taking an interest in "unintelligible and unimportant squiggles of light".

In our defence we would like to say that the film never has been "obviously" identifiable, and that we considered it our duty as investigators to pursue a case of this nature to its bitter end because of its "potential" importance. To publish, as both these writers have, an explanation based on no more evidence than a passing sight of the film on television, is premature to say the least. It would serve no purpose to ufology to have left the case half-baked as

"probably flares" when all the data contradicted this, and the only evidence we had for this was the opinion of people who had seen a flare once before.

What we wanted to do was to publish a complete investigation and present not just opinion, but the facts as thev stand. There is no doubt that the media will use the film in the future to perpetutate the belief that the objects are UFOs. It is our intention here to publish full information to enable the reader to decide about the phenomena for himself. In view of the productiveness of the six months intensive investigation we believe this approach adequately justified itself and we stand by it.

So, what does the film show? Significant development did take place on September 1, 1978, and this we must consider;

On that day we presented the film, and the evidence, to a group of eight or nine scientists. This was arranged by journalist Ian Ridpath at Kodak London offices. (Kodak must again be thanked for their very kind assistance.) Present were leading atmospheric physicists and specialists in ball lightning and plasma studies from Harwell and leading universities. They were not perturbed at having been invited to see a UFO film (although they were not told this before they came!). After quickly rejecting any possibility that the film did show ball lightning a typical comment was: "Why be afraid of calling these UFOs? In my opinion they fit that description better than anything else."

Staff Sergeant Ron Stafford from the Ministry of Defence, an army munitions expert, considered the film, and his opinion that the images were flares, was accepted by most scientists present. Ian Ridpath subsequently wrote up this conclusion in the *Observer* on September 10th under the heading "Inconclusive case for the UFO." In fact 'inconclusive' is the most appropriate word because Ron Stafford was not positive in his evaluation. His quotations to us for publication seems to sum up the results of the meeting rather well: "The filmed objects do not look like flares, but the phenomena behave like flares. On balance I think they are."

So the situation remains at an impasse. The witnesses adamantly refuse to accept that the objects they saw were flares. The supporters of the flares explanation likewise reject the witness testimony, which inevitably they must do because it does not fit this theory at all. As for ourselves we are certain of one thing. The film cannot be considered as important or highly significant evidence for an unknown phenomenon, regardless of whether or not it does in truth show one.

We feel that this case does, however, highlight some very important factors about UFO investigation. Here we have a set of data that can be looked at in two entirely different ways. Either it can be interpreted to mean that the witness testimony is totally unreliaable with the objective evidence of the film being used to provide a completely mundane explanation for an apparantly bizarre event, or the testimony, or parts of it, can be accepted with the result that we have an important close encounter with objective evidence. The archetypal "classic case" in fact.

We wonder how many "classic cases" would in fact present this two-sided situation if they were subjected to inadequate long term investigation. Whatever the answer, we feel that this case has amply justified the need for intensive investigation of selected high strangeness cases, even to the detriment of newer and fresher low strangeness incidents. This is the cornerstone of the UFO Investigators Network system, and we believe it is the correct approach to lead us towards a better understanding of the UFO enigma.

* * * * *

NB The authors would like to request any comments which readers of FSR may wish to make on any aspect of this case. Write to: 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Salford. M30 6NJ

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF FSR......

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THE MISSING CESSNA & THE UFO	*Bill Chalker*
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GIGANTIC UFO OVER REFINERY

Jenny Randles & Ron Sargeant

A report for UFOIN and *Flying Saucer Review*

MOST readers will have seen the feature film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* by the time they read this article. No doubt, like us, they thrilled to the spectacle of the gigantic "mothership" gliding silently over the mountains while the awestruck witnesses looked on. Whilst Stephen Spielberg's epic film was true to life in many of its insights into the UFO phenomenon, this seemed to be one where it had missed out. Who has ever reported an object that size before?

The UFO phenomenon seems to have several basic ground rules. Whatever it is, and whoever is controlling it (and that could include *us*) it seems to play a game of cat and mouse with us. You chase the answer, think you have found it, and then realise that it has run away from you again. In a similar vein the phenomenon seems to tantalise us. It appears to play little jokes, or provide infuriating and ridiculous little asides, maybe to distract us from reaching the truth. Whatever that truth, it is quite in keeping with the phenomenon, as we know it, to present us with a sighting such as the one described below, seemingly comprehending the reaction it would provoke.

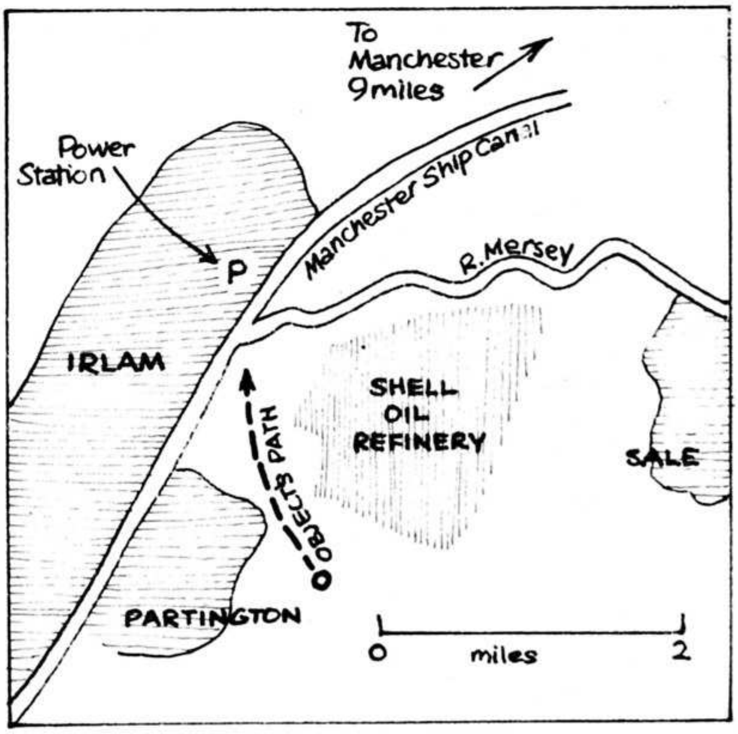
Partington is a Manchester overspill area, about ten miles from the city itself. It is in the district of Trafford and is most famed for the nearby Carrington Oil Refinery, which is operated by the Shell Company, and which is the biggest of its kind in the country. This vast complex dominates the mostly flat landscape on one bank of the Manchester Ship Canal, opposite to Irlam (the scene of the solid light encounter from July 1977 described by Ron Sargeant in FSR Vol 23, No. 5). The immediate area also contains a power station and a large number of electricity grid supply lines.

Being on the fringes of rural Cheshire, the area is not highly urbanised and is regarded as a not unpleasant residential spot.

This was the scene on the evening of Monday, November 14, 1977, which was cool with just a slight breeze and a clear sky. At about 5.45 p.m. four people got off a bus bringing them home from work nearer the city. These were June, a 32-year-old office worker, a female neighbour aged in her forties, and two male acquaintances whom she knows because they travel regularly by the same bus.

Darkness had fallen as they began their walk home from the bus stop. When reaching the end of Conifer Walk they all noticed some strange lights in the sky, and automatically assumed that they were connected with the Shell plant. Talk centred on these for a moment, as they realised that the light must have been put up very recently, until one of the men pointed out that these lights were in the SSE, whereas the Shell plant was further north. It was then, as they began to walk towards them, and as they came visibly closer, that the four people realised they were witnessing something very near, very low and very peculiar.

The lights had been in view for up to two minutes at this point and are described in detail by the witnesses: "Like floodlights at a sports game... sort of panelled in appearance like two TV screens with a slight gap between them... there was no glare or dazzle and no beam coming from them... although they were very bright."



The two lights remained in one position and were very large indeed. The witnesses, although using different methods of gauging the size, all say that a half page of a tabloid newspaper at arms length would have been necessary to cover them. They estimated them to be no more than 100 ft. in the air (another reason they had connected them with Shell) and within half a mile across open fields.

It was at this point that they realised that they began to think about UFOs, and they began to speculate excitedly about what this object was doing in the area. There was little fear at this point. However, when the lights suddenly went out the tension increased a little. Most of them feel that this was caused by the object bearing the lights turning sideways on, thus hiding the beams which were on the adjacent side. One of the men, however, is sure that the lights were in fact turned off. Whatever the cause,

at the position where the lights had been a strange dark shape appeared, and this shape began to move in their direction.

Understandably their fear was intense at this, but they were rooted to the spot — whether due to "paralysis," or simply to fascination, they do not know. In addition the area suddenly became very quiet. Although there had been little noise around them this utter silence was noticeable and added to the tension of the situation.

The huge object continued to glide silently towards them. It moved so slowly that they were able to obtain an excellent view. Their descriptions of it can, therefore, be regarded as quite precise:-

"It was like a huge dark oblong... It was dark grey, a kind of blackish metal covering... I cannot be sure of what the front end was like but I think it was a cone and on this was a huge pulsating red light. The light itself was the apparent size of the full moon. This pulsed at a slow rate — about once every three seconds... most of the time the light was off. It came on suddenly, grew bright, quickly faded and then came on about three seconds later... The size of the thing was amazing... it seemed to take so long to pass over... it seemed ages before we saw the back of it..."

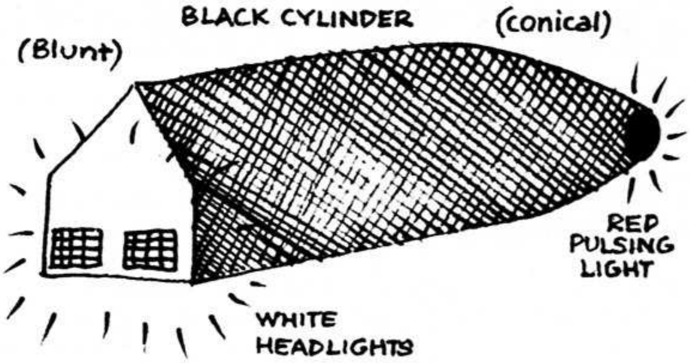
As for a realistic estimate of the size, this has proven very difficult because of the total impossibility that the object presented to the witnesses. They talk consistently in terms of a size at arms length of approximately four feet, that is two opened tabloid newspapers at arms length! Since they feel that the object passed by within a hundred feet or so, and at a similar height, we are talking about something in the region of half a mile in length!

One can imagine the feelings of the observers as this monsterous thing passed by. One of the men said "It was like a huge floating restaurant." Yet the biggest surprise of all was the total lack of sound. Had it been an aircraft, one witness commented, the noise would have been deafening.

In addition to all this was the strange and alarming way the background noises had subsided into nothingness, and the "paralysis" was locking them to the spot.

After what seemed an eternity, but was estimated afterwards as being perhaps another two minutes, the object had passed over on its course heading northwards towards the canal (and Irlam) maintaining its speed and height. At this point the tension broke, and although the object was still in view, for one of the women enough was enough, and she hurried home in a state of fear. She says that while the object had been overhead she had acute sense of being watched by something very strange.

June, the lady who fled the scene, arrived home and blurted out the story to her mother and a friend who were in the house. She was obviously highly distressed so when she had calmed down somewhat, they decided to call the police. A Sergeant Butts and another officer arrived about 7.0 p.m. and at first seemed sceptical, but after they had checked out the story their attitude altered somewhat.



Sergeant Butts was in fact very helpful, despite the fact that our inquiries with him took place more than six months after the incident. He told us he remembered the case. In fact it had interested him considerably because he was unable to explain it. "The lady who reported it to us," he said," seemed genuine. Her fear was quite apparent that night. I have no reason at all to disbelieve her, and she was very certain that she wanted no publicity. What made me even more certain of what she told us was when, next day at the office, I heard a story circulating that two officers on duty in Sale (just two or three miles from Partington — JR) had seen the same thing. They had drawn it and it looked just like the sketches the others had drawn. The police officers apparently said it looked as if it was landing on Washway Road but when they got to the spot there was no sign of it, and no marks on the road surface, although from the size of it, they expected great imprints..."

This story had come second hand to Sergeant Butts, although he tried to verify it, this proved impossible. He was not surprised at this as reports of any seriousness are passed on to the Ministry of Defence — via his superiors — who conduct a full investigation after the reports are out of his hands. Asked if reports "of any seriousness" are received frequently he said, "oh, yes, quite often."

In an attempt to discover more about the object he had contacted Manchester Airport within two hours of the sighting. They were adament that no aircraft of any kind were in the vicinity at the time, and that nothing was on their radar screens (although the oil refinery is reflected clearly. They could offer no explanation for what had been reported.

With total enquiries at a dead end the report was "passed upwards," and Sergeant Butts heard no more. Indeed, at one time he wondered if we might have been involved in an official inquiry into the incident.

Since the time of the first report a number of others were received by the police. These were invariably of white and red lights, but with no specific shape, and all of them were in the vicinity of the plant. Sergeant Butts told us that the thing was regarded as a "phantom helicopter" because it seemed to hover, brightly lit and low down, near the plant. Police had suspected at one time that the plant operated a helicopter illegally but no justification for such suspicions had been found. He admitted this was an attempt rationally to explain the thing away.

(Continued on page 25)

THE UFO PHENOMENON TAKES TO THE ROADS

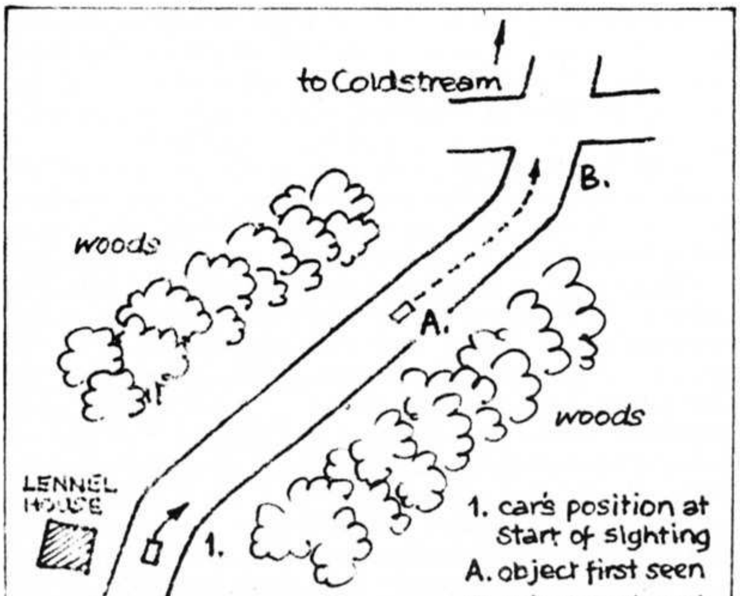
A compilation from UFOIN members' reports made by Jenny Randles, Secretary of the network.

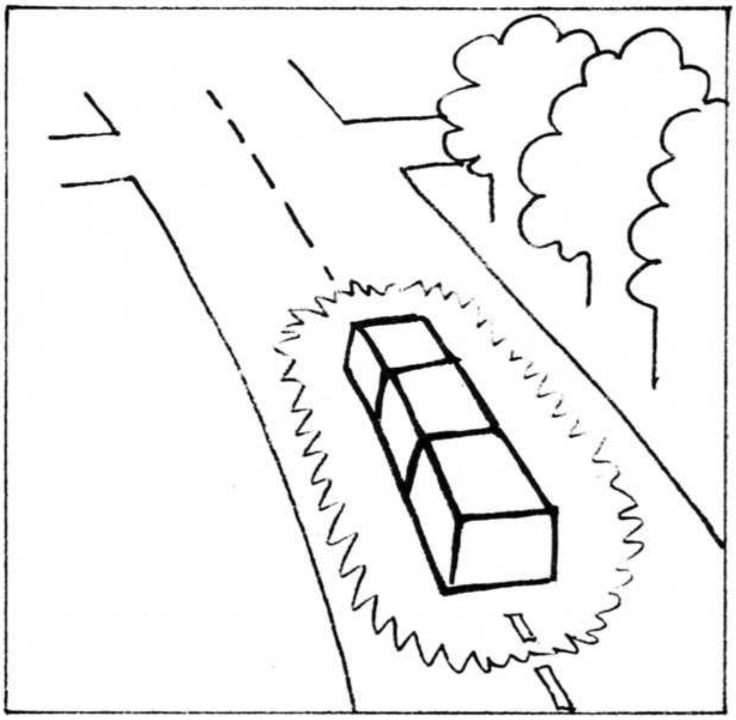
IT has often been noted that there is an unexplained relationship between sightings of UFOs and motor transport. A typical example was the car-stop case at Nelson, Lancashire (see FSR Vol.23, No.2). This occurred on March 9, 1977, at the prelude of the great British wave of that Spring. It seems that, for some unknown reason, the phenomenon was unduly "interested" in motor vehicles at that particular time, as illustrated by the following incidents (brought to our notice by the publicity surrounding the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind.*

Coldstream

The first case took place at the beginning of February 1977 and was investigated for UFOIN by **Alan & Trisha Price.** It occurred late one evening on the Lennel Road, about half a mile outside Coldstream, Berwickshire, in the South East of Scotland. Like so many close encounters, it is just one of a series of incidents which may be interlinked in some way.

It was a clear, cold winter's evening as Stan (69) and Edith (61) (a married couple) were driving from Swinton. During previous months they had seen several white lights moving erratically in the sky, and had been puzzled since they always seemed to be over a local farm. The nearby RAF base denied responsibility for anything in the area and a solution was never forthcoming, although their inherent degree of strangeness was always low. However, on this occasion they were confronted by a much more remarkable sight.





The "Square-windowed" box car

Stan had just driven around a bend past Lennel House when, 150 yards ahead of them, he and Edith simultaneously spotted an object about the size of an average car. It was soon quite clear, however, that this was no car. It had the appearance of an oblong box, slightly narrower and a bit lower than a car, and completely covered by square windows. These extended to the "roof" as well, and the whole object radiated an intense light that brightly lit up the ground beneath it.

The object was straddling the white lines in the middle of the road, and seemingly "flying" about six inches above them. It moved quite slowly, heading towards a small crossroads.

Both witnesses were naturally quite amazed at this sight and in fact Stan accelerated in an attempt to catch the object. As he did so the object also accelerated, still hugging the centre of the road. They did not close the gap, and after it had been in view for some fifty seconds (the witnesses' estimate) the object suddenly and completely disappeared.

One should bear in mind, of course the possibility that it could have been some unusual reflection on the road surface, but this does not seem to fit the facts entirely (although it could explain the synchronised accelerations). It is to be remembered that the road was straight and the car was not travelling in the centre of the road.

When they reached the spot where the object had

vanished, Stan stopped the car and they both had a look around. The surroundings were quiet, with woodlands on both sides, and a high stone wall to the left. There were no effects at any time on the car or the witnesses, although when they saw the thing they had a strange feeling that it was "not of this world."

Sadly, Stan died on September 24th, 1977 (note the presence, once more, of the "death date" alluded to by John Keel in his writings). Then late on the evening of November 29, 1977, Edith had another experience.

After her husband's death she had moved to Coldstream to live nearer to her daughter. On this occasion she was in a car being driven by her daughter with her grand-daughter as passenger in the back seat. The grand-daughter was looking out of the window for the few seconds that the incident lasted and she was not a witness.

About a mile out of Swinton, on a different road to Coldstream, they were passing a clump of trees in a rural area when a figure either leapt out suddenly, or materialised, directly in front of the car. It was only a few feet away, and both Edith and her daughter saw it very clearly. It seemed to be about seven feet tall and was wearing a "hood or balaclava helmet" (a familiar feature of supposed UFO occupants). No features were visible and the figure appeared black in the headlight beams. The daughter slammed on the brakes instantly, but they were too close to avoid hitting the figure. However, as soon as the brakes were applied the figure vanished before their startled eyes.

Grasby Bottoms

The second incident involves two witnesses whom we shall call Mr M (aged 29) and Miss T (aged 21). The couple are engaged and live in the Cleethorpes area. **Nigel Watson** investigated their story for UFOIN.

On a date within five days of the beginning of March 1977 they were driving towards Caistor, South Humberside, along a dark country road. They were approaching Grasby Bottoms, about mid-way between Grimsby and Scunthorpe. The time was about 9.20 p.m. The weather was clear and cold, with a bright moonlight illuminating the countryside (the moon was full on March 5th). As the road was icy and ungritted Mr. M was driving his 1973 *Lotus* sports car at 15 mph.

As they were driving up to a small crossroads they became aware of a pulsating orange light filling the car. It was so intense that the blue bonnet turned orange and the headlight beam was similarly tinted. The glow spanned across the narrow road from verge to verge.

Both witnesses looked out of the windows to see what the cause was, thinking it was perhaps the flashing light on a gritting truck. However, nothing was visible and then they realised that the source was almost directly above the car. Fear began to overtake them when, because of the total lack of noise in the quiet surroundings they had to reject the idea that it might be a helicopter.

Mr M now began to accelerate, irrespective of the road conditions, and after about twenty seconds came to the crossroads. It was at this point that they were able to see the object clearly. It was resting on the middle of the road a few hundred feet behind them. Both witnesses observed it (Mr M through his rear-view mirror). It was still pulsating, and seemed to be a globe about ten inches in diameter. It was giving out an enormous amount of light. t.

After barely stopping to check whether or not any other traffic was crossing, Mr M quickly drove on, and the object was lost to view (because of the terrain) while still resting on the road surface.

It could have been a sighting of an unusual form of ball lighting but, in view of the weather conditions this appears to be unlikely.

All three incidents were the cause of considerable alarm to the witnesses who requested anonymity. Their names and addresses are on the file with UFOIN. Note also the similarities between the first and third kind: an isolated car on a lonely road, one male and one female witness, the males both eight years older than the females, and both objects radiating unusually large amounts of light. Coincidence?

GIGANTIC UFO OVER REFINERY

(Continued from page 23)

While he could not promise results, he was genuinely helpful, and offered to give all future witnesses the UFOIN telephone number. He was intrigued when it was pointed out that police and ufologists in the Oldham area of the Pennine foothills had been chasing what they called "the mysterey helicopter" for five years. Reports always centred on the Winter, and he noted that there had been almost no verifiable stories of the Partington "phantom helicopter" since March 1978 (i.e. the end of Winter).

This is certainly an intruguing story, and it features many aspects we find in the UFO phenomenon. It is made even more interesting when one considers a remark made to the witness, June, by a neighbour when she moved into the area in 1970:-

"What do you think of the thingys we get around here?" she was asked.

"What thingys?" she replied.

"Those flying UFO thingys – lights and such – we get a lot of them here. But don't go mentioning it around. It only means trouble!"

Of course bear in mind the date of the original incident – before the opening of the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* in the USA, and before any information about the contents of the film was available over. here. The incident was reported to us by the witnesses before the film was released in the United Kingdom, when only a handful of people were aware of the nature of that last dramatic sequence. It seems virtually impossible that the "coincidence" of description was in any way due to to unconscious fabrication by the witnesses.

What was seen, of course, we do not know. Yet it is most interesting to compare this object with that reported by UFOIN member Omar Fowler in his article in FSR Vol. 24, No. 1. There seems more than a little similarity here.

AMOEBA-LIKE UFO OVER OXFORDSHIRE

Bob Webb

Bob Webb is a member of the UFOIN team, covering events in the Oxfordshire area. He works as an electronics technician, as does the witness to this incident. Bob has worked with the witness since 1973 and can vouch for his integrity. He says that this was the case that started him thinking about the reality of UFOs.

ONE Winter's morning in 1976 a colleague at work, Len Franklin, came over to me and said excitedly: "UFOs *do* exist. I saw one last night."

Len was aware of my passing interest in the subject which, up to that point, had consisted of little more than subscribing to *FSR* and reading the odd book. Being a level headed person and extremely inquisitive he had not accepted the reality of the phenomenon at face value, although he was open-minded enough to consider possibilities. He was quiet and honest, usually remaining in the background, and certainly not prone to boasting or spreading rumours. Confronted with these facts, and the clear indications that he had seen something quite remarkable to him, I listened to his story.

The night before had been quite mild for Winter, with hardly any wind and a cloudless sky. At about midnight he had returned home to Foliat Drive in Wantage after he and his wife had spent an evening with friends. A babysitter had been looking after their children and now he was escorting her the short distance to her home.

As the two of them left the house Len caught sight of a peculiar object in the sky. "What's that? he asked alerting the babysitter to it.

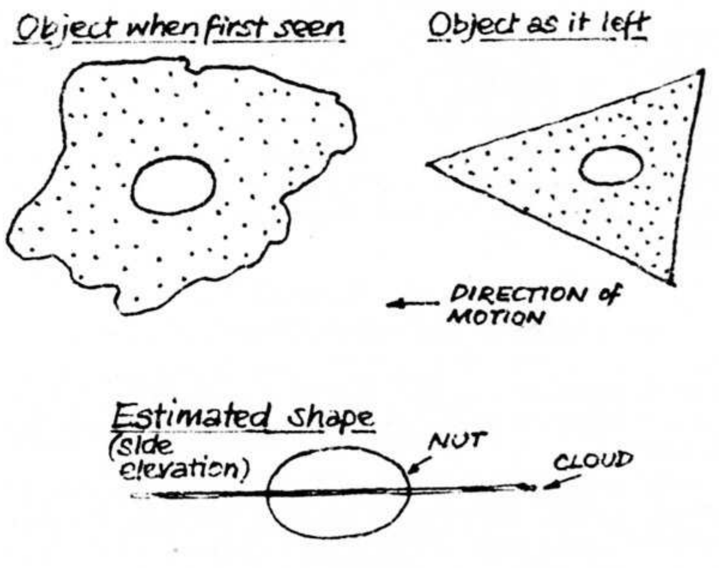
She glanced up an replied "Ooh — I don't know" apparantly a little alarmed.

Then she looked downwards and walked on as if frightened refusing, dispite the requests of her chaperone, to look at the object again. Len, on the other hand, stood rooted to the spot for a few seconds and closely observed the object and its behaviour. He described what he saw:—

"It was dead in front of me... slightly to the right and at about 60° elevation. I didn't have to crane my neck backwards, and I suppose that's why I saw it. I often gaze up at the sky."

Although he never saw the object fully sideways — on he was able to obtain a fairly clear impression of what it was really like (see drawing). Most of the time it presented a partial plan view which showed it as a round or oval centre that he describes as "nut shaped." This was a very bright white, but not bright enough to hurt his eyes. Surrounding it was a plasma or "cloud of tiny, speckly bits." The outline of this "cloud" was going in and out at various points hap-hazardly, slowly moving and constantly changing shape. It looked rather like an amoeba.

Len Franklin continued his story: "I could see the outer edge of the 'cloud' and the dots of light in it were white, but nowhere near as bright as the middle bit. I suppose it wasn't really a cloud. It was nothing like an ordinary cloud. I was just wanting to know something to call it... the bit that amazed me was the outer edge movment, constantly changing shape



so slowly and calmly... I got the impression the cloud was thin... I suppose the object would have been four inches across at arms length, proportioned as in the diagram."

The UFO was apparently moving towards the East at no more than 3 or 4 mph. The witness pursued it, walking onwards slowly and looking up at the same time, trying hard to avoid tripping over his own feet as he did so. The babysitter continued to refuse to look at it.

"I could see the black background and the stars *through* the 'cloud' as the object moved... I was amazed at the many, tiny pinpoints of light... It stayed like this for about 5 or 6 seconds, long enough for me to absorb all the detail... suddenly the centre bit glowed bright orange, dimmed a little and then intensified again.... the 'cloud' I noticed had instantly changed into a delta shape with the 'nut' still in the centre. The whole object then shot off at tremendous speed..."

This last phase of the encounter is of course very important. The delta-shape is by no means

uncommon — particularly in connection with shape-changing phenomena,[1,2] and this sudden increase in speed rules out all possibility that the object was windborne. In fact the object streaked off to the East in the direction of Didcot Power Station, which was not directly visible, but is a well-known landmark whose position was known to Len. The distance is about 7 miles and the object seemingly covered this in about two seconds, point (of the delta-shape) first, and then disappeared. Total duration of the encounter was about ten seconds. This mode of disappearance towards a power station brings to mind the pulsating object seen by policemen in Merseyside in January 1978.[3]

Len Franklin can find no explanation for the phenomenon. "I have never seen anything like it before. There was no noise or smoke, it moved off far faster than any aircraft and appeared to stay at the same height as it did so. I dropped off the babysitter and RAN home. I was scared stiff, and not a lot frightens me usually."

No plausible explanation for this phenomenon has come to light and we seem to have a most unusual type of UFO reported here. Knowing Len as I do, I can verify 100% that this report is factually accurate and true. But what did he see that night?

References

1. Bowen, Charles. *The Annapurna-Pokhara UFO 'Ballet'.* FSR Vol. 19, No. 4: July-August: 1973. A bizzare sequence of shape-changing phemonema that includes objects made up of many tiny dots.
2. Fredrikson, Sven-Olof. *Young Swedish scientist's unique series of UFO pictures.* FSR Vol. 22, No. 6: 1976. Photographs of a delta shaped UFO, seen in connection with an object similar to the initial "amoeba" in this report.
3. Randles, Jenny, *Humanoid Encounter at Rainford,* FSR Vol. 23, No. 6: 1978.

A "JOGGING" UFO IN SOUTHERN SCOTLAND

Alan & Trisha Price

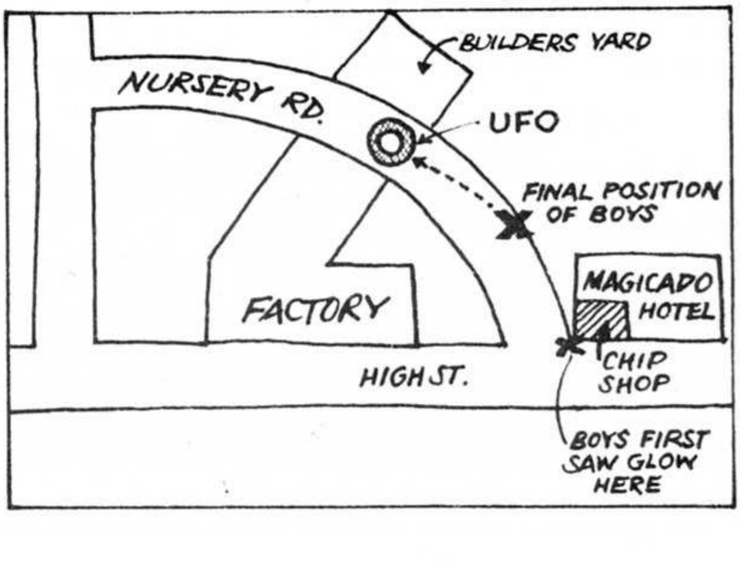
Another report for UFOIN and *Flying Saucer Review* by this husband and wife team which operates from North Eastern England.

COLDSTREAM in Berwickshire is a small Scottish town which, one cold clear night in October 1977, played host to a frightening encounter.

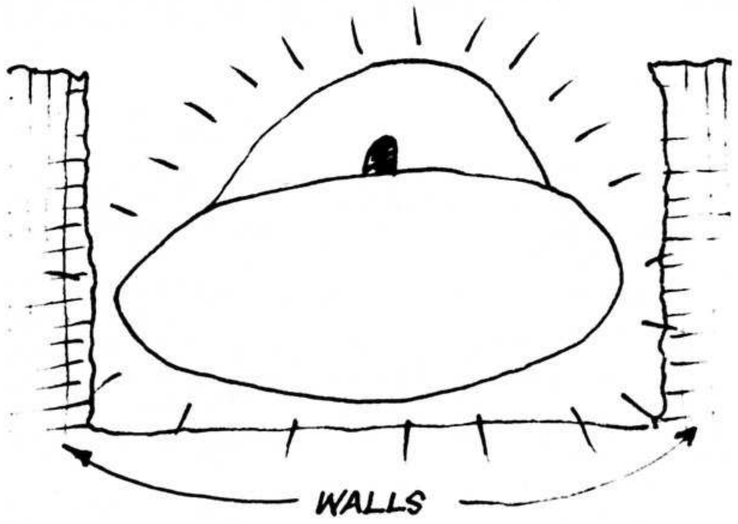
The witnesses are both aged ten, so we shall call them by their first names only; Michael and Steven. Both are considered to be truthful in their accounts and are expressly against publicity. Indeed one of them is well known to the investigators, and we can therefore vouch for their integrity. In addition we have the testimony of this same boy's mother who was present moments after the encounter when the boys ran in, visibly terrified and trembling all over, and with faces white like sheets. She is certain that this was a genuine fear and that the boys were telling the truth as they knew it.

On the town's High Street, adjacent to the Majicado Hotel, is a fish & chip shop and alongside this is Nursery Road which curves round in a quarter circle. The time was about 8.00 p.m. and the boys were purchasing some chips from the shop. After leaving the shop they noticed a brilliant glow coming from around the bend of Nursery Road. The glow was so bright that, being young boys full of curiosity, they decided to investigate. They soon began to wish that they had not.

As they rounded the corner they came across an object spanning the road less than 100 feet in front of them. They were terrified at the sight of what seemed to be a classic flying saucer, hovering no more than 6" above the road surface.



The boys have described the object independently and have given similar descriptions (as illustrated by their drawings). It had a seemingly solid oval base with a small, rounded, transparent dome on top. The



whole object was giving off a very bright glow which illuminated the surroundings. In fact one of the boys described the experience as like looking at a gigantic white lightbulb.

Inside the dome was something dark that contrasted sharply with the intensely white background. This they described as a "post" as it was a little stump about 12 inches tall, somewhat reminiscent of a head. Indeed it may well have been an occupant, although it was never seen to move during the 45 seconds or so that the object was in clear view. For this reason the boys insist on calling it a 'post' and not an occupant, which is certainly to their credit. (One would imagine that had they concocted a hoax this would certainly now be described as a "silver suited entity."

What made the experience even more frightening was that the object was emitting an audible sound which the boys can best describe as a "buzzing, rasping". In harmony with this, as if it wer dancing," the UFO was jogging up and down! It was almost as if it were angry about something. These "jumps" were no more than inches or feet but were very obvious.

When after a few seconds the object began to "hop" towards the startled witnesses in this fashion, fear understandably welled up within them and they fled the scene in utter panic, rushing straight home.

On investigating the scene of the event no traces of any kind were found, (hardly surprising as the witnesses only plucked up courage to tell the story some months after it had occurred). However, accurate measurements at the site were possible, and these give a very good idea of the size of the object which the boys claimed had confronted them.

The site is quiet, bordered on one side by a factory and on the other by a builders' yard (both closed and empty at the time). The road is 16 feet wide and as the boys say the object was virtually touching stone walls on either side we have a fairly accurate estimate of its width. As for its height, it reached the top of stone walls by the roadside, which measure six feet.

There were no physical after effects, other than those of fear generated by the encounter.

As for possible explanations the most feasible seems to be 'ball lightning'. Since we do not know the precise date, it has been impossible to do other than rely on the boys' description of the prevailing conditions. In any event the shape of the object seems unlikely, and its size seems well in excess of that of ball lightning.

CORRECTION

We regret that the incorrect price was shown for the two books reviewed by John M. Lade on page 32 of FSR Vol. 24, No. 2.

The books: **UFOs — GOD'S CHARIOTS** by **Ted Peters,** and **THE UFO QUESTION (NOT YET ANSWERED)** by **P.J. Wilcox**

are available at US $7.95 each, and not in £ Sterling as was shown.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT KELLY

AND OTHERS OF 1955

by **Isabel Davis and Ted Bloecher**

with the assistance respectively of Bud Ledwith and Leonard Stringfield published by the **Center for UFO Studies, 1609 Sherman Avenue Rm 207, Evanston, Illinois 60202, U.S.A.**

KILLINGWORTH CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Carol Tounessen

Carol originally approached UFOIN in her capacity as a freelance writer, but she became so fascinated by the whole UFO enigma that she decided to become actively involved, and is now investigating cases for UFOIN on Tyneside.

ONE of the problems with classifying UFO reports is the looseness often applied to these classifications. "Close Encounter" can be termed as an object coming within a mile or more by some writers. Yet, in this case, as the photographs and diagrams make quite clear, we are dealing with a close encounter in its truest sense. Indeed one could say the object could hardly have got much closer!

The scene of the encounter is Killingworth, a new town to the north of the city of Newcastle-on-Tyne. It offers magnificent views towards the Cheviot Hills and the Scottish border to the north and the coast around Whitley Bay to the east. Mostly it comprises rather bland housing, rising upwards like 20th century castles, but it also fulfills a dual function as an industrial district. The industries include a gas research station which according to official sources, "leads the world in technical advice on piping north sea gas." Apparently it also "has a section that gas research people refuse to talk about."

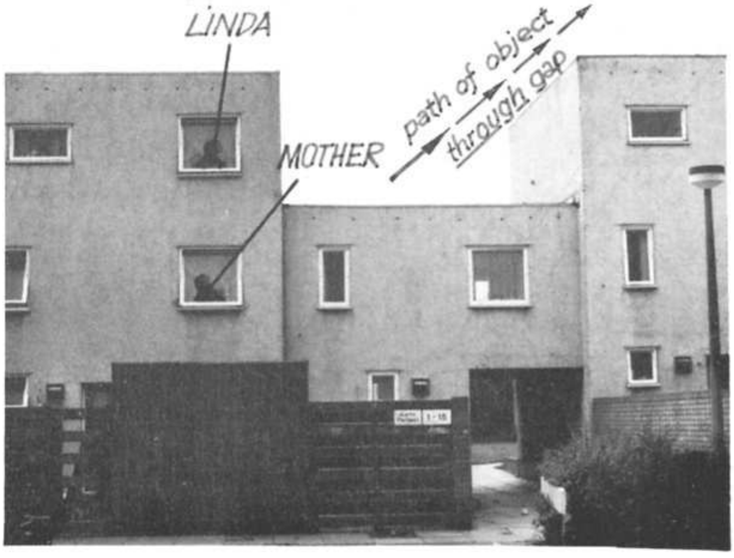


Photo 1: The closeness of the passage through the gap.

The principal witness to this event has requested anonymity so we shall simply refer to her as Linda. She is 21 years old and works as a nurse.

Another problem has been ascertaining the exact date. All that Linda could recall initially was that it was between late February and early March, but then she remembered that the moon was full that night and had been most of the week. Since it was full moon on Thursday, February 23, 1978, the incident must be placed at this date or very close to it.

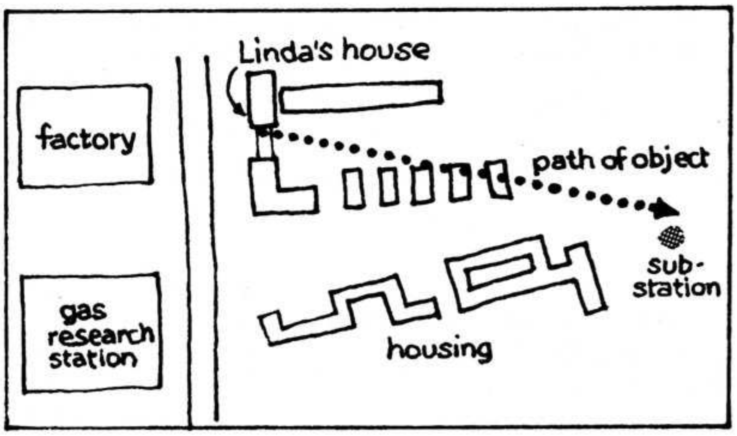
At about 5.00 a.m., when it was still dark, Linda's mother was awoken from her sleep in the lower back bedroom by a loud noise which gradually became deafening. Convinced that an aircraft was about to crash into the house, she was paralysed with fear and, was finally driven to hide under the bedclothes.*

Linda's bedroom is immediately above and she too heard the noise and was jerked into wakefullness by it. At first, she says, it sounded like a low flying aircraft, but as it drew louder and apparently closer it grew into a sound like thunder except that it was constantly rumbling. As it continued to grow in intensity she too became certain that an aircraft was about to crash and she got out of bed and rushed to the window.

The audio phase of the experience had lasted between 1 and 2 minutes, certainly long enough to convince both witnesses that this was something quite extraordinary. As Linda gazed out of the window, however, the noise changed. It became even louder and turned into a high pitched whirring that seemed to pulsate and exude tremendous power. Then, as she looked out fearfully, the source of the sound cruised into view.

As the photographs show there is a narrow gap between Linda's house and the one next door. It was through this that the object glided, apparently so close that Linda felt had she opened the window she

Photo 2: View as the object passed through. X marks the spot where it was last seen.



would have touched it. It could not have been more than a few feet away. Obviously, she now realised this was no aircraft!

The object was cigar-shaped, and looked exactly like a tin which contains expensive cigars. It was silvery, but not shining. It had more of a metallic lustre to it. There was a string of small lights down each side, not like windows but more like lightbulbs as in the indicator clusters on the backs of cars. There were 20–25 on each side. The fact that she could tell that there was a row of lights on *each* side was evidenced by the fact that the object was rotating along a horizontal axis. This was quite slow and uniform.

The object was about 30–35 feet long and about 8 feet wide. There was no sign of doors, windows or occupants. It cruised through the gap between the houses at about 25 feet above the ground, and glided away towards some of the higher flats at the back of the estate leaving Linda staring in fear and amazement. She lost sight of it after about 30 seconds somewhere in the vicinity of the high-rise flats and this allows a reasonable calculation of speed. It seems that the UFO was travelling relatively slowly, perhaps at less than 60 m.p.h.

After the object was lost to view Linda was still able to hear the noise as it faded into nothingness. Total duration of all phases of the encounter was about three minutes.

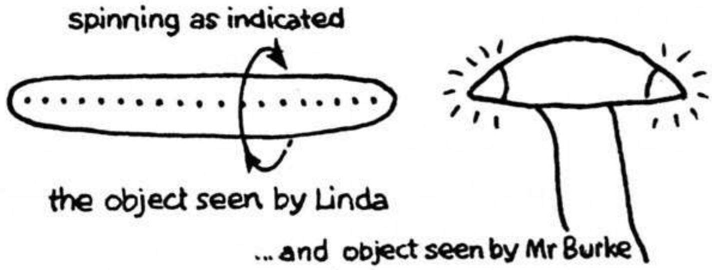
Not surprisingly Linda could not get back to sleep, although she suffered no subsequent effects. There were four males in the house that night (mostly in bedrooms to the front of the building). Nobody else even heard the deafening noise. Although extensive checks have been made in the area no further witnesses to the object nor the sound have been uncovered as yet. It seems almost as if some element of selectivity was in force to chose just these witnesses and especially Linda.

There was also a dog in the house, but it seems he was not disturbed by the noise. When asked whether she recalled any psychic experiences Linda replied that within her knowledge she had had none.

In analysing the route taken by the object it can be seen that it traversed approximately a course from North to South, in other words from the direction of the main industrial centres. Having obtained an architect's large-scale plan of the area it has been possible to trace this route quite precisely. The area is liberally scattered with electricity sub-stations and transmission lines, and the object was in fact last seen almost directly over one of these. Whether or not this is relevant remains to be seen, but it should be noted that this relationship has often been apparent in the past.

What was seen that night is unidentified but it certainly frightened Linda and her mother.

Here is a postscript. On Saturday June 10, 1978, at 10.00 p.m. several people in the area (not related to Linda and her family) again reported a strange sound. It was heard by a Mrs. Mutch and her sister, and was described as a pulsating, humming sound which seemed to come from their back garden. They went to look but saw nothing. It was eerie and frightening, they said. A Mrs. Burke heard it too, while in her bath. She heard it rise in pitch over the course of a three minute period of droning and pulsating. Going to the back window she opened the curtains and at that instant the noise stopped. At the same time, and independently, her husband



was walking *to* the local pub when he saw a strange object hovering in the sky at about 7000 feet. It was hemispherical in shape and glowed reddish with a strobe light effect at each end. This caused fluctuation in the brilliance. Beneath it were two trailers, or vapour trails. The object remained there until, after several minutes of watching, he lost interest and left the scene. He did not hear a sound.

It was considered possible that the sound was from a jet aircraft going into Newcastle airport, since some of the new big jets have very distinctive noises that could be unfamiliar. The airport said there were no such aircraft in the vicinity at the time.

The other major possibility is that the noise was connected with the gas research building, and the work they do not talk about. That is assuming the two sets of noise were the same. Of course, this explanation does not alter the facts about what Linda *saw*, and this is the real puzzler. One might speculate that the UFO was silent and used the noise as a signal for people to see it – but perhaps that is a little fanciful. Who can say?

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* John Rimmer, editor of MUFOB (Metempirical UFO Bulletin) recently stated in a lecture that to hide under the bedclothes when confronted with an unexplained and frightening noise was irrational, perhaps indicating, in the case to which he was referring, that the witness was asleep and dreaming or semi-dreaming. The difference in that case was that the witness (who thought someone had dropped an atomic bomb) promptly went back to sleep! The reactions of Linda's mother seem to be wholly rational – Jenny Randles.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

The TV "Hi-jack"

Dear Sir,— I thought you might be interested in a report from *Studio Sound* (August 1978 issue) regarding the Southern TV "space message" and am enclosing a copy. As you can see from the report it is technically not that easy to "Hi-jack" a TV station, despite the Sunday Times report mentioned by Mr. Priest (Vol. 24, No. 1), [The item is signed 'The Space Agency.']:

"But the mind-bender of all time was yet to come. Following the first Rowridge takeover in 1976, there had been speculation in the trade press that a tv transmitter would be the next to fall to the mysterious 'piggy-back pirates'. An article in 'New Scientist' predicted a takeover by Christmas '76, according to allegedly 'informed' sources. It never came. It was almost a year later that the forecast event took place, and the circumstances were even more strange than anyone could have imagined.

"TV stations are far harder to 'get at' than radio transmitters. There are many tv repeaters in the UK, but most of them are heavily guarded, not by men, but by sophisticated electronic devices that monitor the signal and automatically inform a central monitoring station if anything untoward occurs. And, of course, jammers have to deal with both video and audio signals. On the video signal is a test system called ITS (insertion test signal) which is designed to indicate faults by means of video test waveforms. A potential pirate would somehow have to inject a signal and rebroadcast the ITS intact to avoid the transmitter being switched off immediately. In the final event, the audio signal only was taken over, but this would have meant receiving the composite signal, extracting the ITS and video and retransmitting them, while simultaneously inserting a new audio signal. Very sophisticated equipment would have been required to do this without detection, yet, somehow, it was done.

"Even more remarkable was the way in which the relay station at Hannington, near Newbury, was got at. Hannington receives its signal off air from--would you believe?--Rowridge and transmits Southern TV to much of Southern England. The receiving antennae are both high up on the mast and highly directional. The transmitter itself is approached up a long, shallow hill, giving no nearby high-point to aim into the receiving antennae. Transmission must have occurred from almost directly under the tower, to do nothing less than 'blast' into the antennae and overcome their directional properties, the only alternative being to fire into the beam from the nearest hill some miles away. Both options would have needed either extraordinarily high power (impossible from a portable location) or massive aerial systems that could hardly be hidden from view. Yet it happened. It was certainly no 'in house' job.

"But most bizarre of all was the message. It came over thousands of tv sets during the early-evening news spot. Preceded by a strange humming, a seemingly electronic voice announced that it was 'Vrillon, representative of the Ashtar Galatic Command', and warned the governments of Earth to lay down their weapons to avoid the risk of destroying the entire planet. Strange words indeed, yet UFO researchers from many parts of the world have suggested that this form of message is quite usual in the 'flying saucer' field and has many hundreds of antecedents. They also suggest that this sort of communication, taking over a broadcasting channel, while unusual, is by no means without precedent. It was 'obviously' a hoax but, as a letter in 'The Times' pointed out, there is no way we can be *certain* of this while the mystery remains unsolved.

"Almost curiouser, however, was the reaction of the Press to the event. The broadcast went out on a Saturday. and was picked up by the weeklies, the dailies on the Monday, and by Independent Radio News immediately. Almost without exception they stated that Vrillon had threatened the world with 'intergalactic invasion', something that was never even hinted at in the message itself. The following day IRN obtained a good-quality, off-air recording of the event, but merely changed their broadcast announcement to include 'edited highlights' of the transmission. However, although they *must* have listened to the tape, they persisted in leaving the 'invasion' reference in their copy. The broadcast aroused considerable phone-in comment during the following week but, although several listeners mentioned the discrepancy, it was never corrected. So much for objective reporting: maybe paranoia ruled OK?"

If the "responsible researchers" who placed an advertisement in FSR Vol. 23, No. 6 have not yet obtained a copy of the message I suggest they try Independent Radio News as mentioned in the report or try phoning *Studio Sound* (01 686 2599) as I am sure that they would be helpful.

I would be interested in the address of any Swiss UFO groups that you happen to know especially from the German speaking part.

Yours truly
D.I. Norman,
Seestrasse 15,
2563 Ipsach,
Switzerland.

Under-exposure?

Dear Mr. Bowen,—May I refer to FSR Volume 24, No. 2 and the letter written by Paul Murray ("Perils of over-exposure"). I am afraid I must disagree with him.

1. Over exposure cannot be a bad thing. I would have thought that we would have wanted a greater public awareness of the UFO problem. And in any case, we've put up with so much ridicule over the years that we should be hardened to it by now.

2. Hoaxes. A problem, but we've learned to deal with them.

3. I would rather it became fashionable to see a UFO than for the public to remain embarrassed about reporting a sighting.

4. I presume when Mr. Murray refers to "Pete and Dud" he is referring to the two gentlemen who were seen sky-watching on the BBC TV documentary. May I ask who is going to achieve more..., him in his living room or they on their hillside. The latter I think.

* * * * *

May I close by posing a question. For many years now we have been besieged by UFO sightings, landings, contactees, abductions, materialisations (and the opposite). We have photographs and cine-film; umpteen books, magazines, periodicals and newspaper articles. Explanations by the most eminent of scientists and by the most ordinary of men. Enough evidence in

fact to prove the case for the UFO a thousand times over.

Why then do we still not know what they are, why they are here and where they come from?

Yours sincerely,
John W. Fellows
38 Windsor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.
9 November 1978.

On "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"

Dear Sir,—I was somewhat puzzled by Helen Frank's letter about the film CEIIIK. What did she expect? It was not a documentary film nor was it made to show the subject from an astrophysical or scientific viewpoint. It was an ordinary run-of-the-mill film, designed to interest and entertain the public; and to my mind (and judging by the crowds in this country who went to see it) it succeeded. I myself am a UFO buff of 25 years standing, and a reader of FSR for 12 years or more, and far from laughing at the film or being disgusted with it, I enjoyed it so much that I went twice with friends to see it.

The story was based on the "Bermuda Triangle", and although many of the "effects" were exaggerated, they were nevertheless like the story, founded on certain facts. I considered the photography superb, and the arrival of the mothership in all senses "out of this world". We were thrilled to see Dr. Hynek standing in the crowd, and were aware of his sure touch on the whole film. I have seen many pictures of UFOs in FSR and basic UFO books, which strongly resembled the UFOs in the film. And where, I would ask Helen Frank, would she find a company who would dream of making a commercial film which was not aimed at being a box office attraction? Certainly not in this country, sister!

Yours truly,
Roma Browne,
2, Riverside, Forest Row, Sussex.
November 1st, 1978.

Do UFOs feature in Biblical prophecy?

Dear Sir,—In FSR Vol. 24, No.2 there was a letter from Malcolm Smith of Brighton, Nr. Brisbane, commenting on a letter by J. Wadkin in a previous issue. I agree with most of what he says, but there is one item that I cannot accept:— "Whatever else UFOs might be, they are not covered by any Biblical prophecy."

This to my mind is wrong. Whoever else could St. Mark have been speaking of in Chapter 13, verse 27, than extraterrestrials, hence UFOs as "coming from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven?"

Perhaps I too have a vivid imagination but this passage to my mind is in fact a UFO prediction.

Yours truly,
J.W. Goodes
Stewards House, Collyweston,
Lincs PE9 3PW.
5 November 1978.

A matter of paranoia

Dear Sir,—On October 31, 1978, I was listening to the Bryan Hayes programme on London Broadcasting (L.B.C.); the subject under discussion was future inter-stellar space travel from, in this instance, the Barnard's Star part of the Universe. The guest speaker was a member, I think, of the British Interplanetary Society, but I cannot recall his name.

As is customary in this feature. part of the time was devoted to a "phone-in" of questions by listeners. One caller brought up the subject of UFOs and possible encounters with them, but Mr. Hayes' guest replied that he doubted very much whether any visits to this planet had taken place, or were taking place. He added that in his opinion some scientists and researchers concerned with ufology are paranoid in their attitudes. I thought this was rather a strange term to use.

My viewpoint is one of open-minded interest. I see no reason at all why we should not have been visited — or are still being visited — by extraterrestrial entities. My experience is that a closed mind is a narrow one. The history of science is littered with instances of free-thinking men, since proven correct in their claims, who were constantly at odds with their contemporaries and institutions about problems and discoveries of the times.

I look forward to the time when you and your colleagues are invited to present evidence and facts about UFOs in a similar programme, and that you would be allowed the same degree of understanding, considering that established science has changed its mind on numerous occasions regarding the dating and origins of the Universe, and seems to be continuing to do so.

Yours faithfully,
D. Durand
15 Netherburg Road, Ealing,
London, W5
November 1, 1978

[*The more Mr. Durand — and other readers — become acquainted with the subject, the more they will appreciate that paranoia is invariably the affliction of those diehards who complain of paranoid attitudes in free-thinkers who seek only the truth. This would seem to apply in particular to habitual debunkers of the kind who invariably speak from a background of ignorance of the subject which they seek to denigrate.*

Regarding our reader's final paragraph I would like to point out that on three occasions I have been invited by LBC to take part in live phone-in programmes. No restriction was placed on anything I said and, with the subject being discussed freely for an hour on one occasion, and for two hours on another (a bit of an endurance test, that!), I judged by the remarkable phone-in response that the features were very successful.

EDITOR.]

Those vexed questions

Dear Sir,—Regarding your latest editorial (FSR Vol.24, No.2) concerning the validity of evidence given under hynosis, and especially with regard to the Aveley abduction, I should like to make the following observations:

Although I accept that a hypnotised person may fabricate details or "recall" things suggested to him by others, it seems to me that we are doing the Avis family a great disservice to suggest that the whole of their experience may have been illusory, or a *fugue* (as Dr. Finch theorises). We seem to be forgetting those events which took place *after* the abduction: i.e. changes in the personalities and the habits of several members of the family, plus events of a "poltergeist" nature (movement/disappearance of articles, etc). Some of these latter were, I recall, verified by one of the case investigators. Are we then to presume that both he and the Avis family are "fuguing" on a regular basis; dreaming up a series of non-existent happenings?

Flying Saucer Review readers, and those familiar with the works of John Keel, will be aware that after-effects such as those described above are quite commonplace among UFO percipients: not only those involved in CEIIIs and CEIVs, but even some who have only seen wandering nocturnal lights. They also often suffer from visitations from MIB — surely the most ominous and most overlooked aspect of the whole UFO business. In ignoring these kinds of "UFO aftermath," it would appear that investigators and theorists are shying away from the growing body of data linking UFOs with so-called "supernatural" phenomena. Perhaps it is more comforting to believe that flying saucers are either nuts-and-bolts spacecraft rather than illusory products of the human mind. Unfortunately reality is rarely as we would wish it to be, and we stand to lose much if we dare to ignore those facets of our

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subject we find personally unpalatable.
Yours faithfully,
Michael S. Grayson,
114 Eyre Court, London NW8 9TY
26 October, 1978.

[Dr Finch was quite right to voice his opinion that the Aveley witness, John Avis, could have experienced a fugue; that he sometimes seemed to be "filling-in" or romanticising. He was present when the hypnosis sessions were held with John in his house, and his view as a medical man should be respected.

However, none of this precludes the possibility that the witness was subjected to interference from some unknown "controller;" that the dream-like experience could have been the response to external stimuli from, for example, UFO occupants in, or even beyond the bounds of our planet. I believe that something like this could be possible, and the editorial article "Vexed Questions" hinted at this; in no way can it be construed as "shying away from ... data ... linking UFOs with so-called 'supernatural' phenomena." – EDITOR.]

On water containers and oil cans...

Dear Sir,—I feel I cannot let your article "The Ufonaut's plea for water" FSR Volume 24, No. 2, 1978, pass without further comment.

The UFO phenomena, by its very nature, must be the subject of the most critical analysis if we are to succeed in separating the wheat from the chaff and arrive, eventually – hopefully, at a solution.

Five points spring to mind regarding this report that bear further study.

1. H.M. states he bump started his car and took it for a 10 to 13 kilometre drive to charge the battery. Assuming the charging system was by a dynamo, a fair assumption for 1951, then I doubt if a journey of this nature at 11 o'clock at night, using side, stop and headlights, would in fact charge the battery beyond being sufficient to start the engine immediately it had been stopped. By the time the car had stood all night, it is debateable whether there would have been any improvement in the condition of the battery.
2. H.M. must be very brave (or foolish) to stop at 11 o'clock at night on a deserted country road at the request of a complete stranger.
3. It's stretching reason a shade too far to believe that "beings" coming from as far away as "the stars" (or planets of the Solar System) would travel those distances, whatever the method of motivation they employ, without a commodity upon which they are, under certain circumstances, dependent, i.e. water!
4. It seems equally inconceivable that a supposedly intelligent entity would then go out in search of water without taking a receptacle in which to carry it. Surely there would be something on board the craft that would have held water.
5. One last point that bothers me is the fact that H.M. and the entity used one of H.M.'s old oil cans. Have you ever tried cleaning out an oil can with water? At best, it's a long drawn out process. At night by a mountain stream it is impossible. The result must, therefore, have been a can of contaminated water, hardly a suitable agent for medicinal purposes.

The reason for this letter is not to pick fault with this very interesting case but to highlight the importance of being alive to the finer details in the hope that these may provide valuable clues that will eventually lead to the completion of this very complex picture.
Yours faithfully,
W.J. Dawson,
"Mulsanne", 120 Currock Park Avenue, Carlisle.
2nd November 1978.

[I am grateful to Mr. Dawson for his comments. At the time when this article was edited, some of his points, namely 1, 3 and 5 stuck out like "sore thumbs". However, there seemed little merit in commenting editorially at the time, and there was another point which our reader does not mention, namely that a professional engineer should raise no objection, for example, to trying to clean an oil can with cold stream water.

Again the account impressed with its dream-like quality and it seemed that "H.M." could have had an encounter with something – yes, an occupant from a UFO – which "took him over" implanting ideas in his mind, some of which after 26 years were retrieved in clear detail. Nevertheless we may never have an inkling of all that could have happened to the witness inside the craft unless there is further investigation aided, for example, by hypnotic regression. This could, I suspect, turn out to be a CEIV case— EDITOR].

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